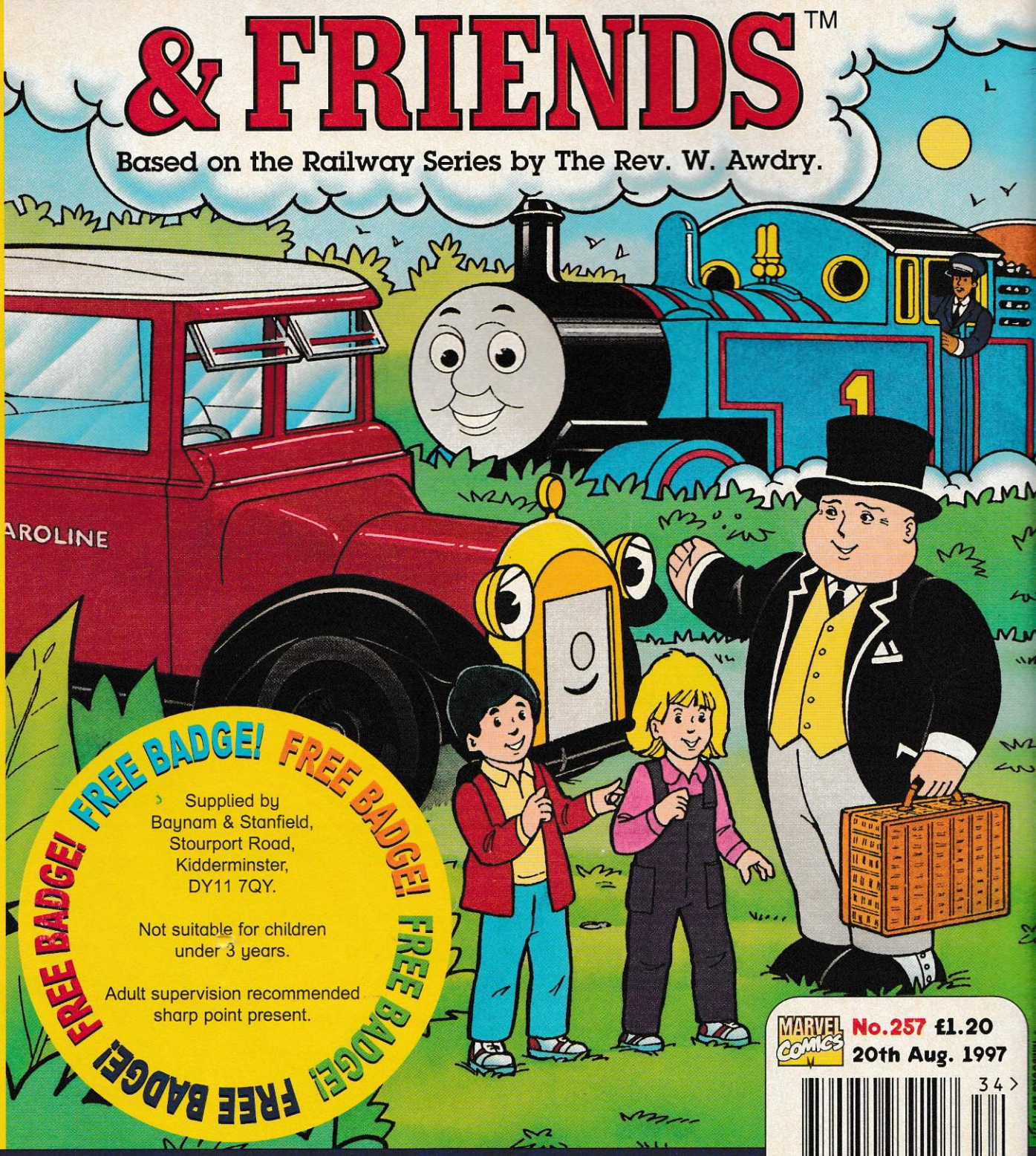
FREE badge!

LET'S READ TOGETHER

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



FREE BADGE! FREE BADGE! FREE BADGE! FREE BADGE! FREE BADGE!

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Not suitable for children under 3 years.

Adult supervision recommended sharp point present.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

MARVEL COMICS No.257 £1.20
20th Aug. 1997

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Stories · Games · Colouring

Hello, everybody!

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Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to

.....

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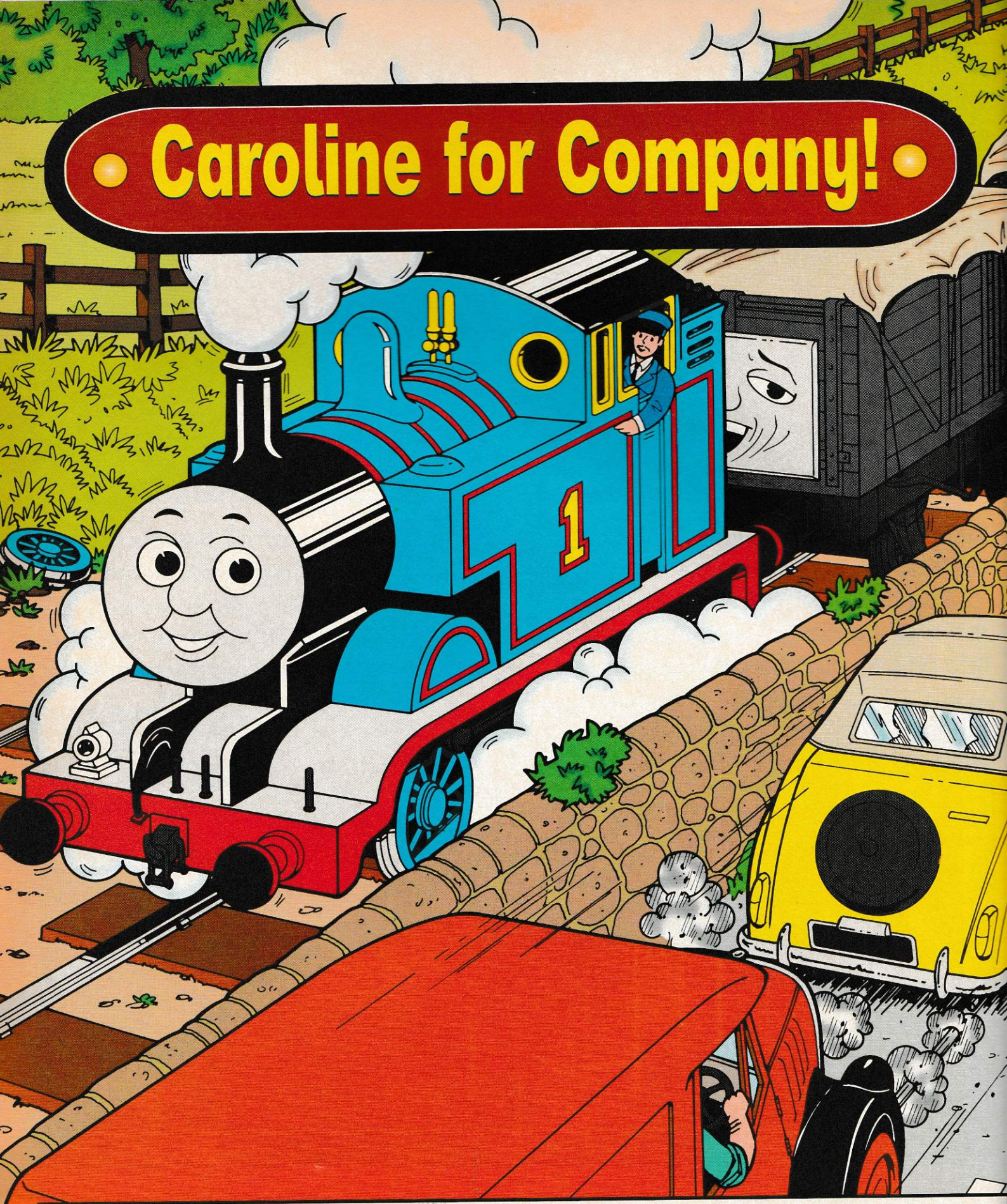
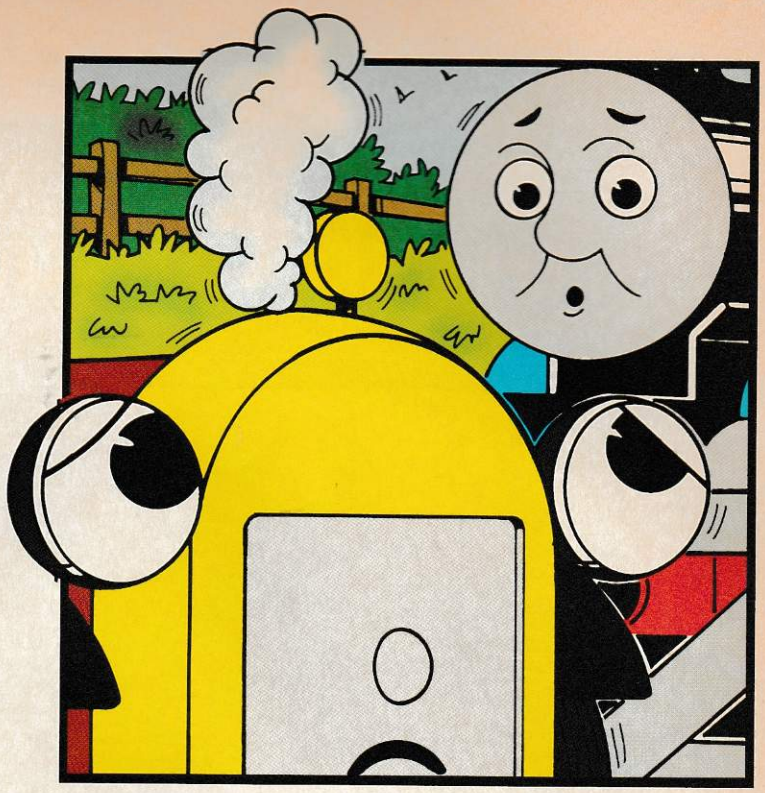
Caroline for Company!



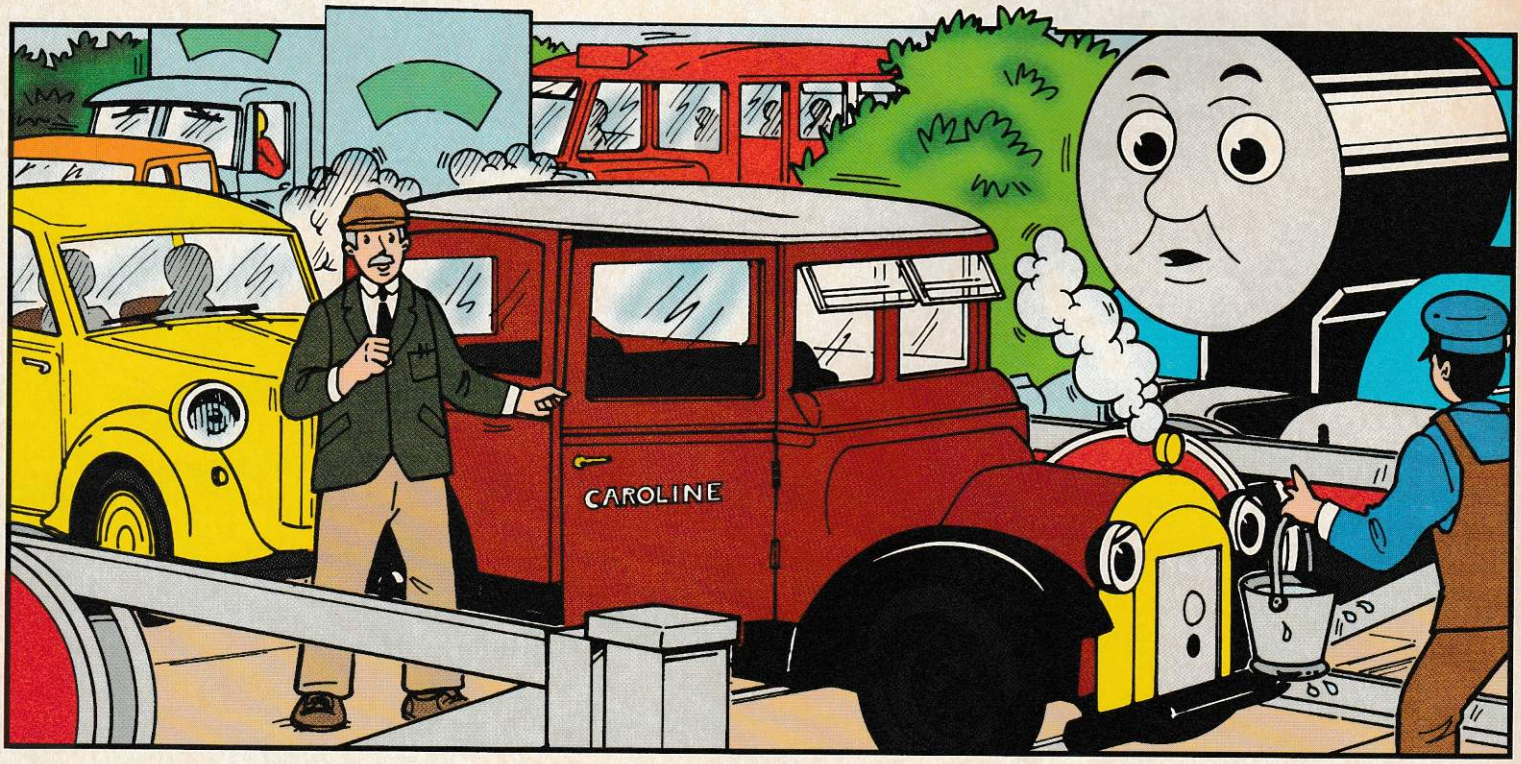
1. It was a lovely, warm morning and Thomas was really looking forward to a special outing. Later that day, he was to take Lady Hatt, the vicar and a party of children on a picnic.

2. But first, there was work to do. Thomas had to pull a goods train to Wellsworth Station. He saw the roads were busy. "Everyone's out enjoying the fine weather," he thought.

3. Thomas neared a level-crossing. He heard lots of motor cars noisily tooting their horns. BEEP! BEEEP! A signal warned him to stop. A car had broken down on the crossing.

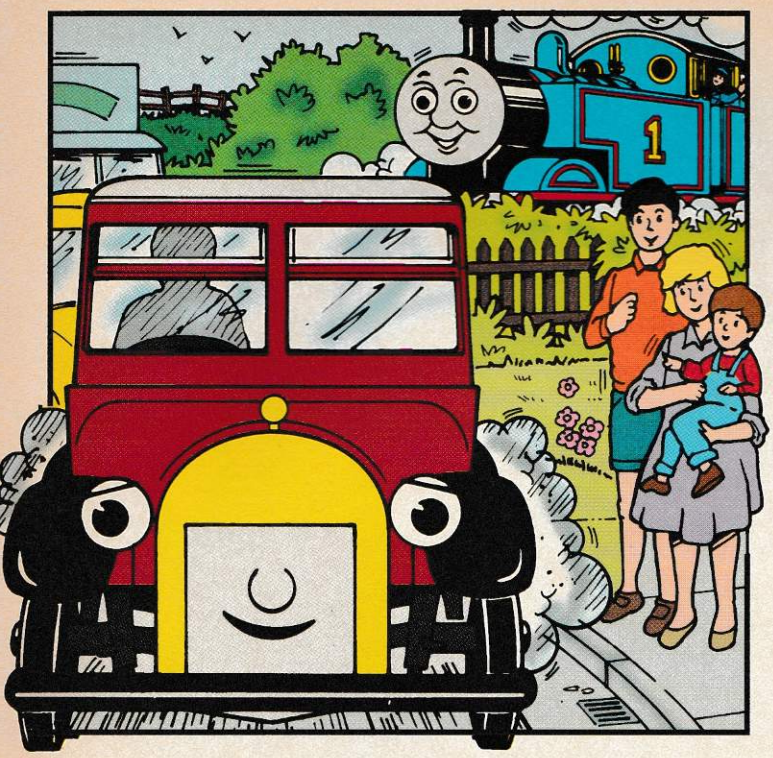


4. It was Thomas' friend, Caroline. Steam was blowing from her radiator. "Oh! I've overheated!" she cried. "My engine is very delicate and I've had to rush about in all this traffic!"

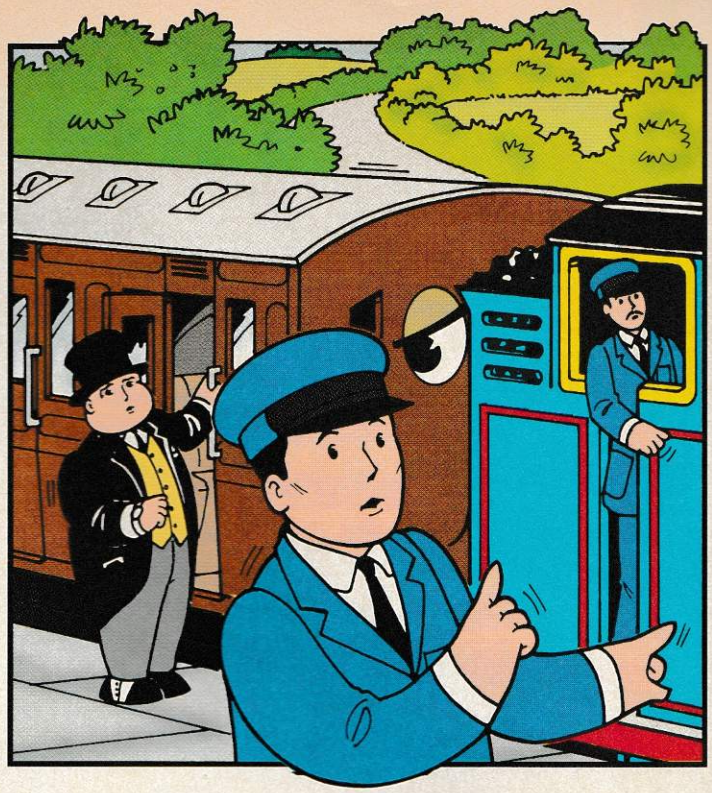


5. "I'll help," said Thomas, kindly. "You can have some water from my tank to fill your radiator again and cool you down." His fireman carried the water in a bucket to Caroline.

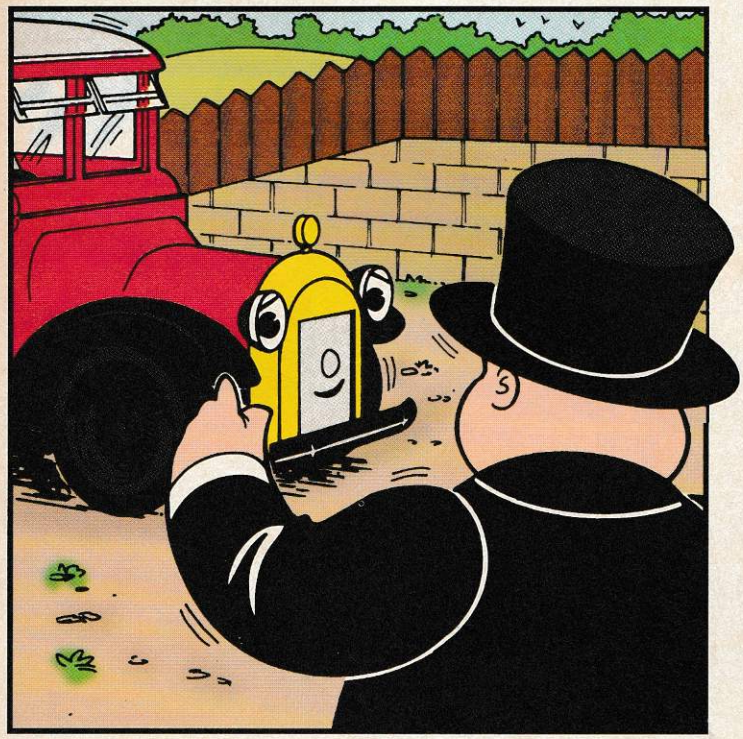
6. "Thank you, Thomas," she called. "These town roads are far too busy for me. I'm too old to keep up with all the new cars. I like to motor steadily along quiet, country lanes."



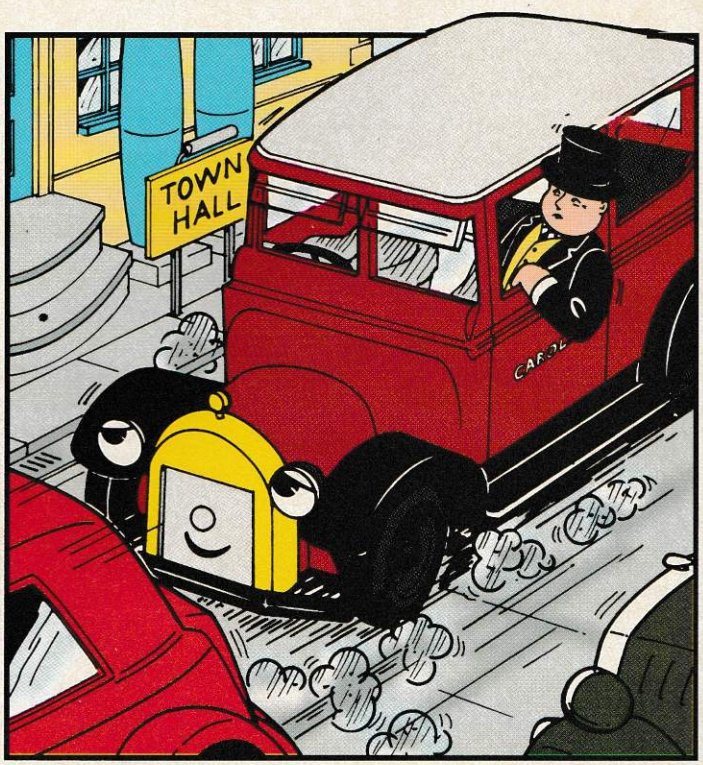
7. Thomas told Caroline that he would soon be off into the country with a picnic train. “How lovely!” she smiled. “I like picnics!” Caroline felt much better now and drove away.



8. Thomas had one more task before the picnic. He was to take the Fat Controller to a meeting with the Mayor at the Town Hall. But Thomas was delayed by a points failure.



9. “Upon my word! I mustn’t keep the Mayor waiting!” The Fat Controller said, anxiously. Luckily, just then, Caroline came chugging along. She offered to take him.



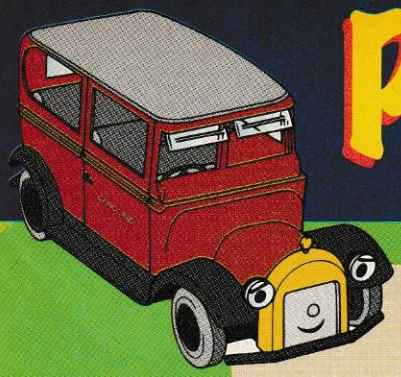
10. Caroline tried to go as fast as all the other traffic. “I hope I don’t overheat again,” she thought. Thanks to her, the Fat Controller arrived at the meeting just in time.

11. Shortly, Thomas came to collect him. Caroline was resting in a car park nearby, after her hectic trip. “Well done,” said Thomas. “I’m not built for speed,” said Caroline.

12. “Everyone will soon be at the Main Station for you to collect them, Thomas,” the Fat Controller said. “Enjoy your picnic!” called Caroline, who was about to leave.

13. Thomas had an idea. He asked the Fat Controller to invite Caroline to the picnic. Her headlights shone with delight. "You deserve a treat for being Really Useful," he agreed.

14. Caroline had a wonderful time. The children enjoyed having the old car for company, too. Later, Caroline drove happily all the way home and didn't overheat once!



PICTURE POEM!

A Song for Caroline!

is an old, red car,
Who likes to take it slow.

sometimes helps her,
When her engine doesn't go.

She still is very useful,
The says.

For she got him to the 's
house despite the delays.

Sometimes she may break down,
Or even overheat.

But all the love her,
Because she's kind and sweet.

The likes her very much,
and invited her along,

To the children's picnic,
Where they sang this song!

Missing words: Caroline - Thomas - Fat Controller - Mayor - Children - Vicar.

COMPETITION!

WIN A MARVELLOUS TURNTABLE PLAYTRACK!

ERTL are giving away 12 of these super playtracks!

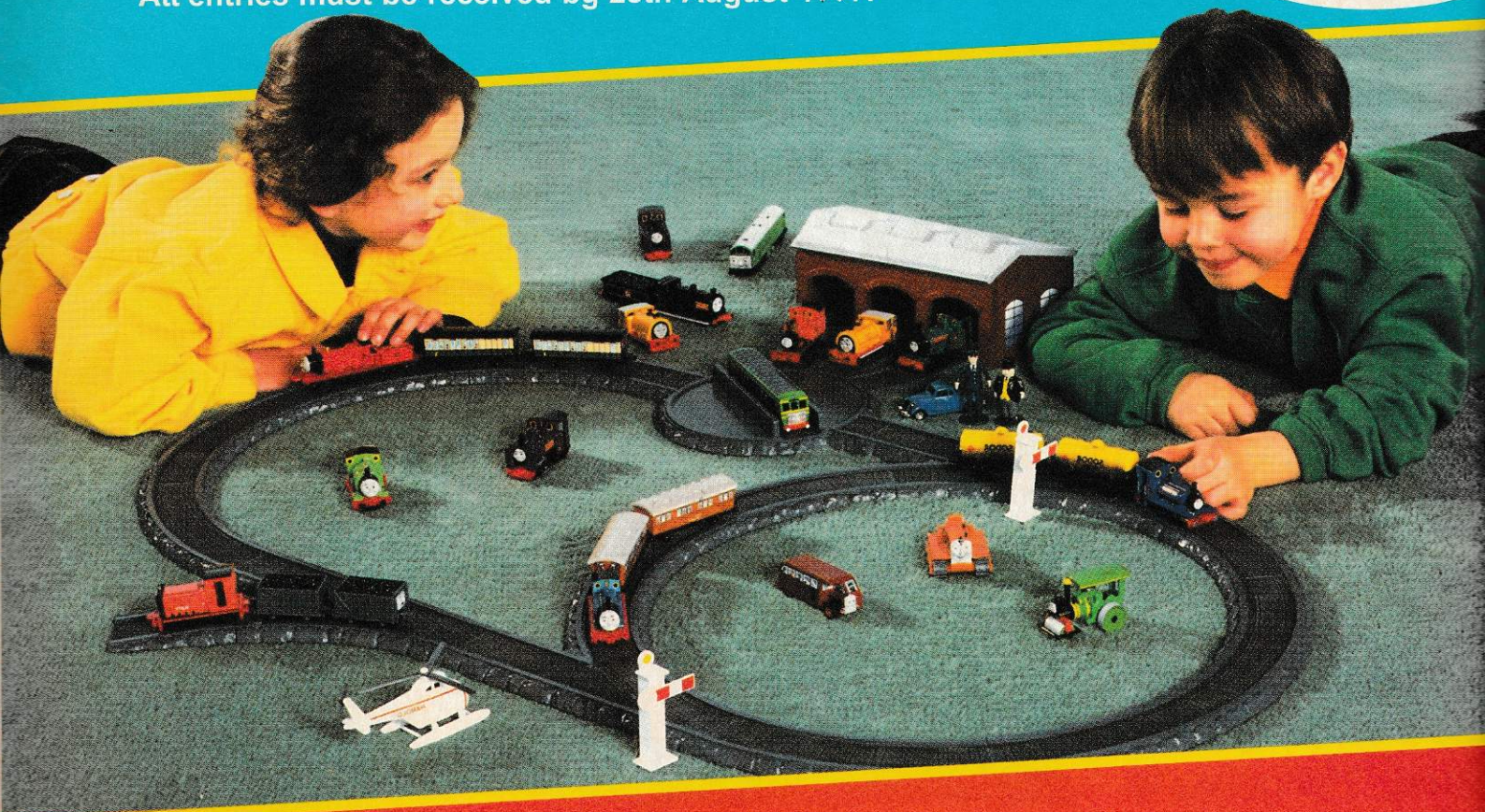
You'll have loads of fun playing with Thomas & his friends on this fabulous track with it s own shed & turntable!

HOW TO WIN!

Just answer this question:

What is the Fat Controller's real name?

Send your answers on a postcard along with your name and address to: Thomas/Playtrack Competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ. All entries must be received by 28th August 1997.



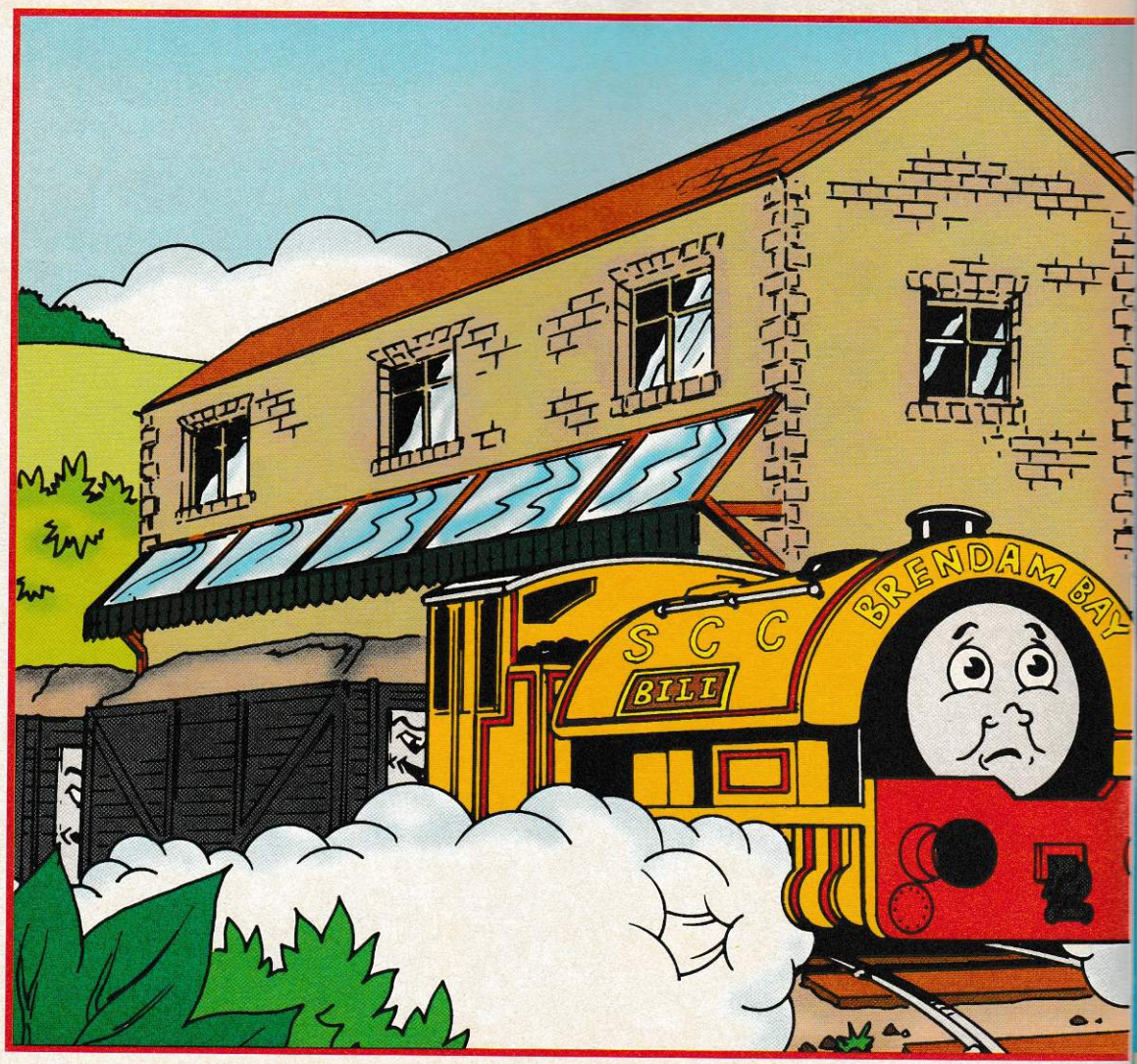
This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Bill & Ben's Treat!

One day Bill and Ben puffed past the Main Station with a long line of heavy trucks. They were dirty, hot and bothered!
"Cheer up, Bill and Ben!" peeped Thomas. "Life can't be that bad!"
"Oh but it is! Life is one long clay train for us!" groaned Bill. "If only we could carry some passengers for a change, it would be great to meet some people!" sighed Ben.

The Fat Controller was on the platform listening, and it gave him an idea. On the twins' return to the clay pit he climbed into Ben's cab and went to talk to the Pit Manager.
Minutes later, he came out of the Pit Manager's office to talk to Bill and Ben who were waiting glumly for their next heavy load. "Cheer up! I've got a great idea!" he announced. Then he explained his idea, "I'm going to bring back a fine old custom of giving a free day trip to school children. Many years ago, once a year, we smartened up the clay wagons and put benches in them for the day. It's a great treat for the children!"

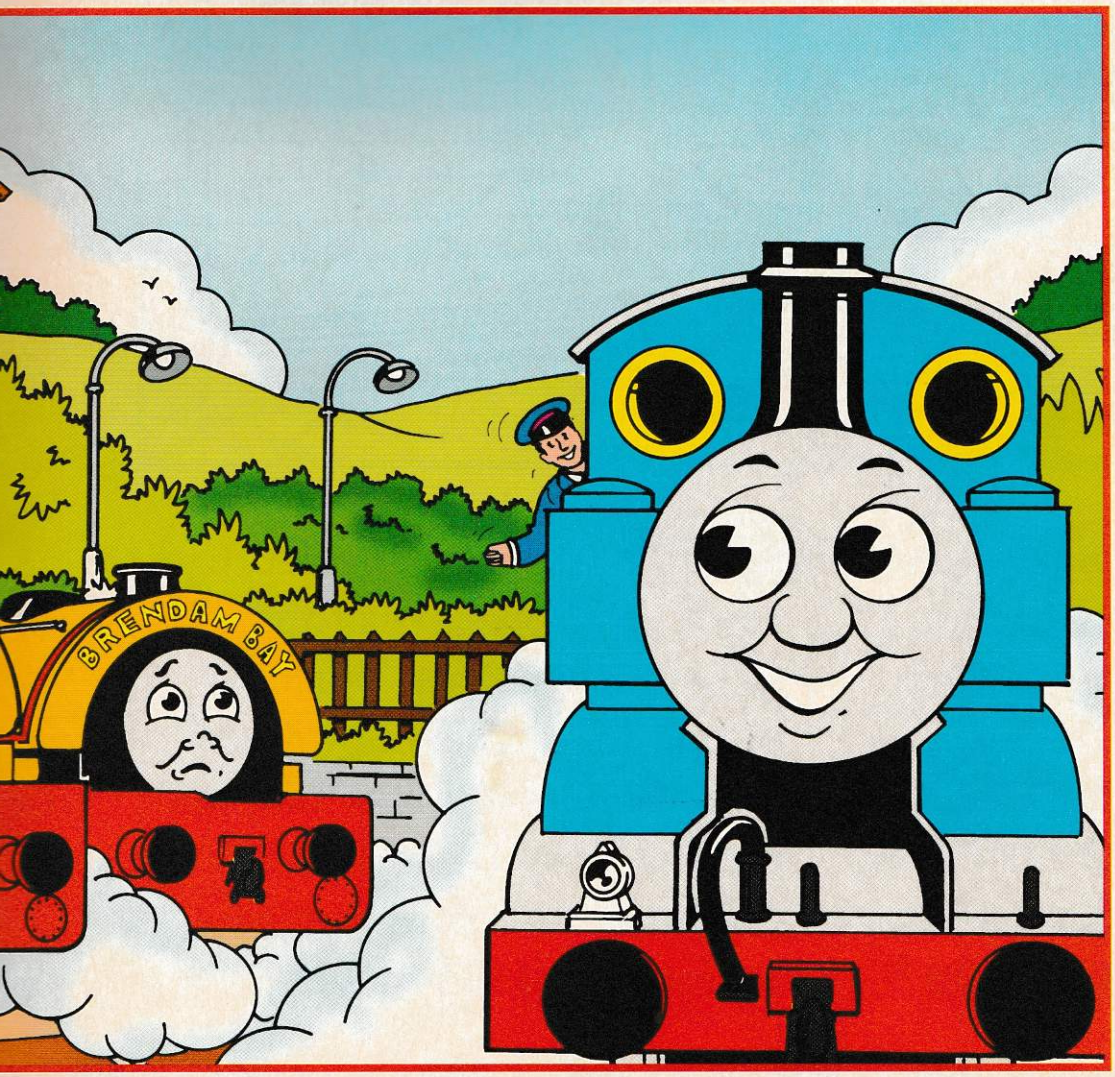
The twins started to smile. "It'll be a great treat for us too!" they whistled, together. The Fat Controller got some men from the pit to get the trucks ready, and



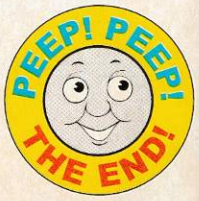
Bill and Ben were polished from buffer to buffer. How smart they looked for the outing! "I can't wait for tomorrow!" said Ben.

The next morning, the twins puffed merrily around all the stations, picking up the children. The children began to sing "Oh what fun it is to ride in a wagon made for clay." to the tune of 'Jingle Bells'!

Later, there was a tour of the pit and a pottery class where the children learned about all the things you can make with clay. Some of them made tiles with pictures on and some made bowls. One little girl made a lovely, tall, flower vase, and it was given to the Fat Controller as a thank you gift. "Thank you children!" he said. "I'd also like to say a big 'thank you' to Bill and Ben who work so hard all year and it's been such a good day that we'll do it every year!"

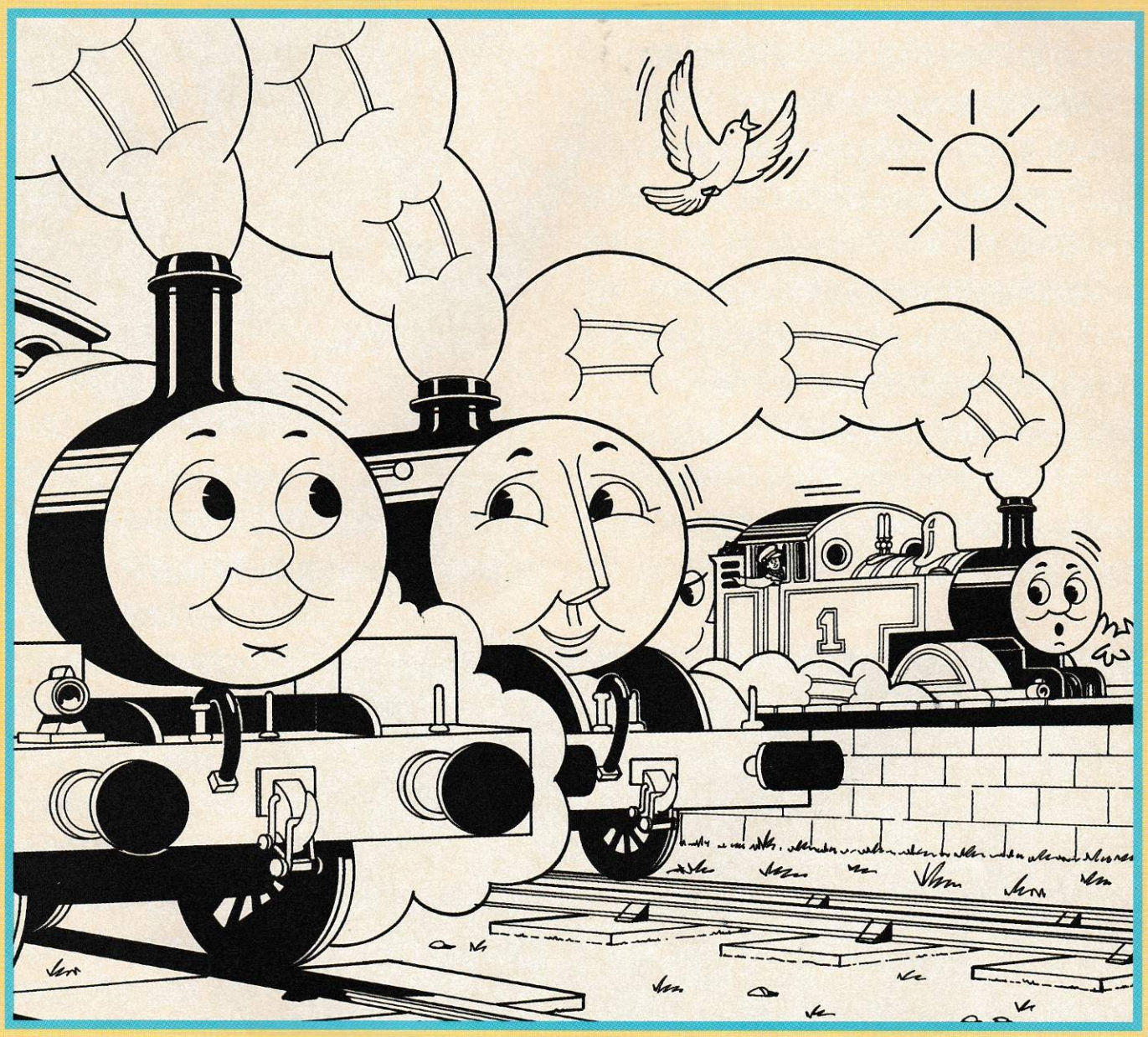


All the children cheered, but no-one was happier than the twins! "Hard work isn't so bad when you've got some fun to look forward to!" they whistled. "The same goes for us!" shouted the happy children.

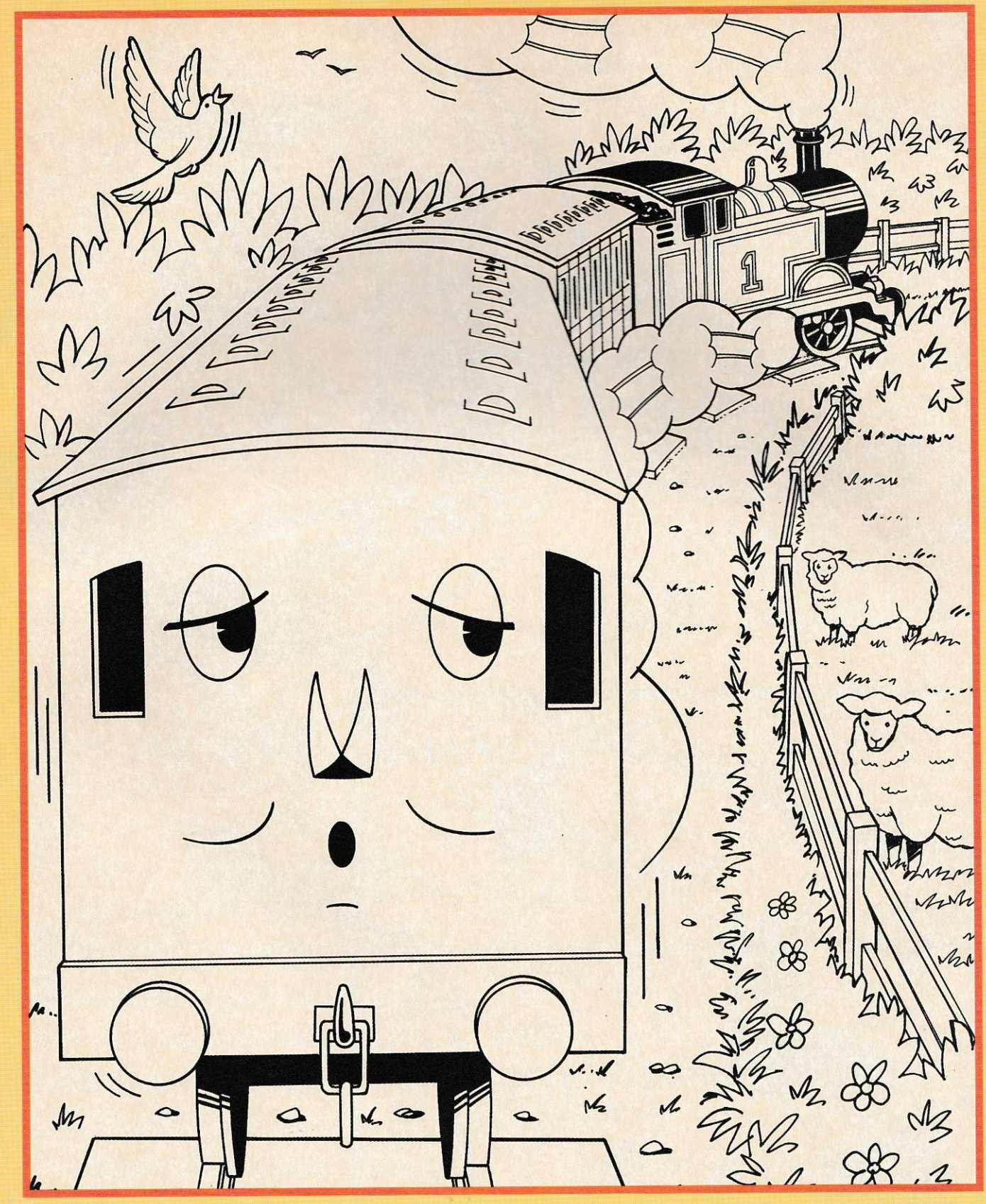


A read & colour story

Scarecrow's Surprise!

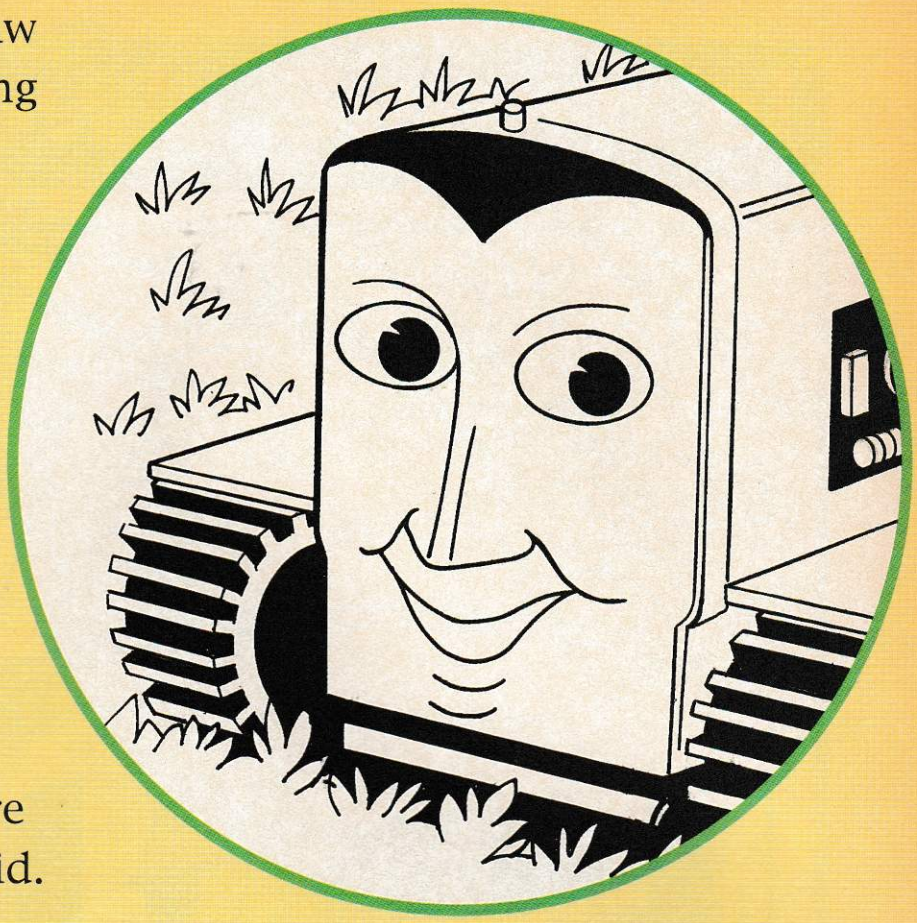


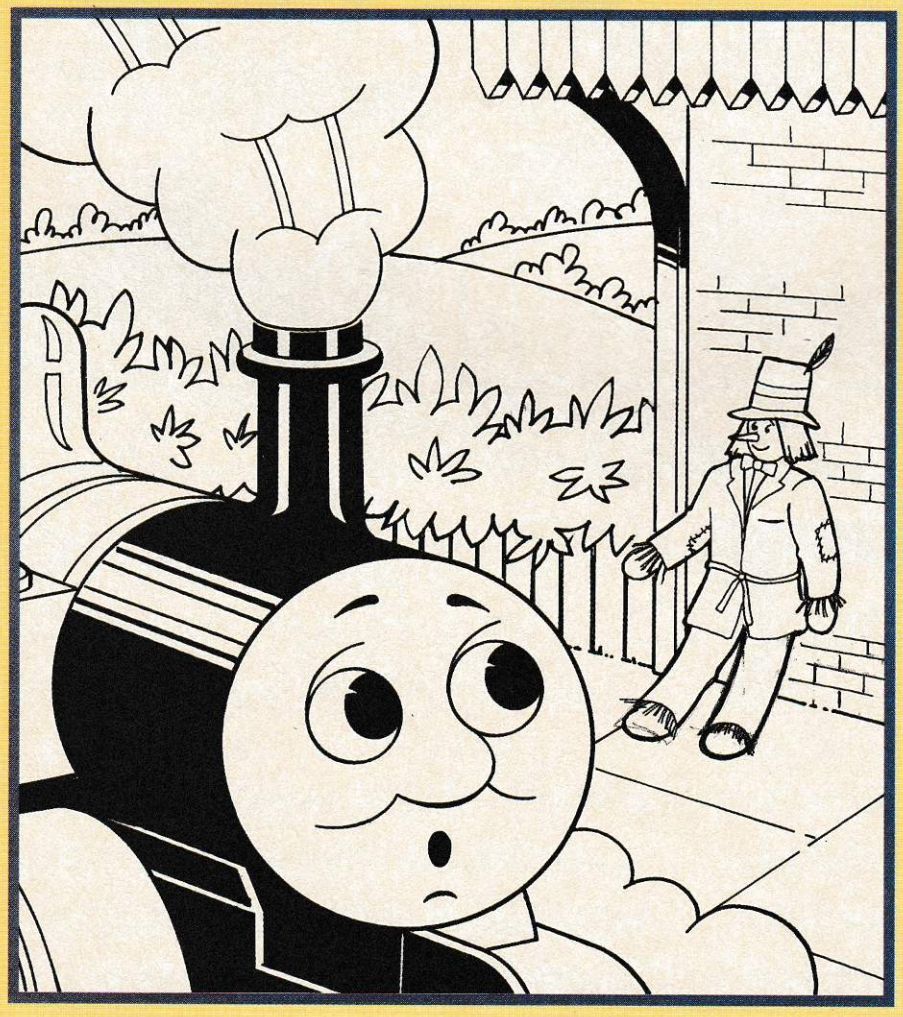
1 Henry and Thomas were waiting at the main station, when Percy, looking excited, hurried over with Henry's coaches. "Guess what!" he puffed. "I pulled the milk train this morning and the scarecrow in Farmer McConnell's field waved to me!" "It seemed to wave at me yesterday too," Henry began, "but I just thought I was seeing things!" "You were!" Thomas snapped, pulling away from the platform. "What nonsense - scarecrows don't move!"



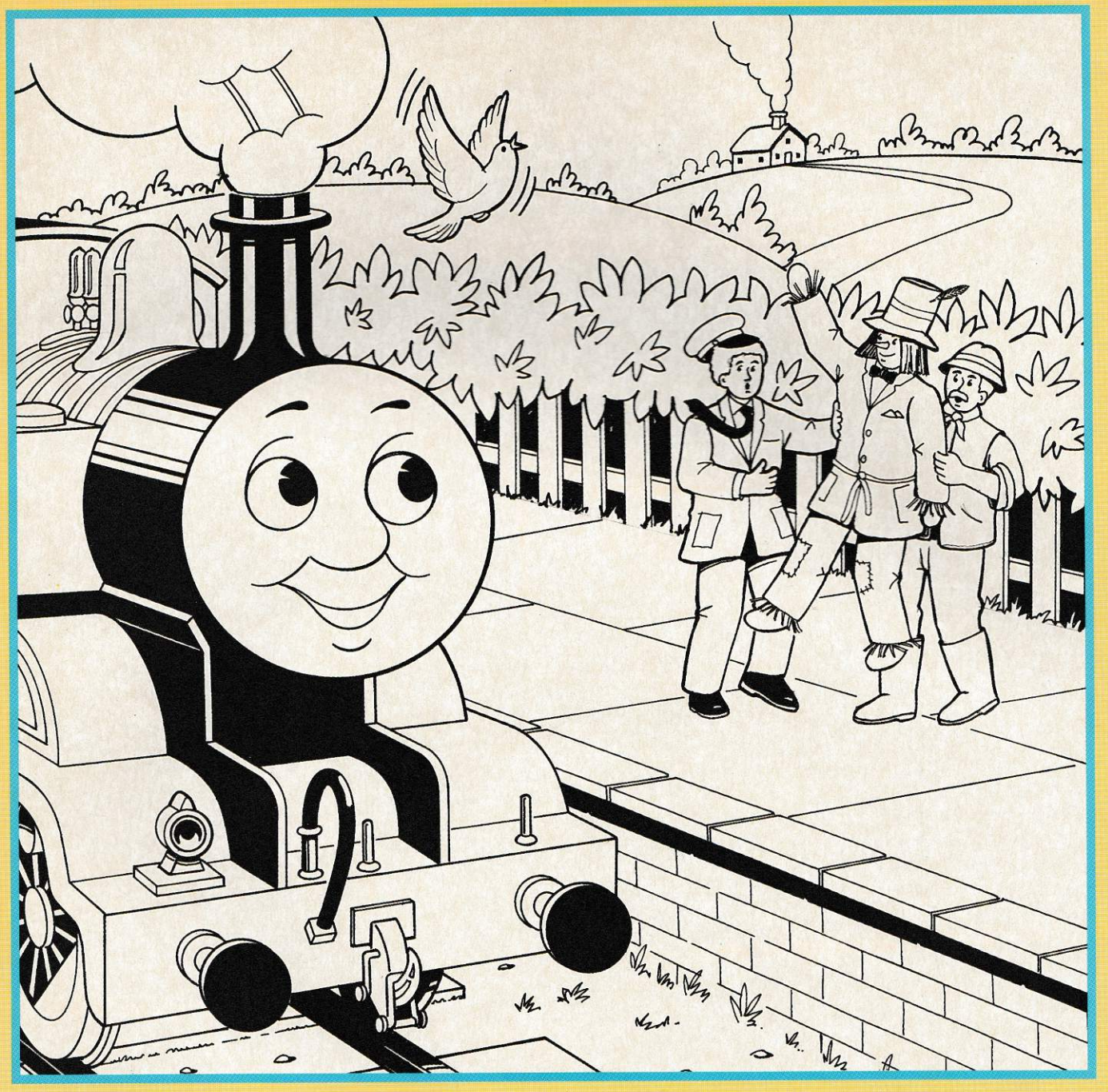
2 Puffing along his branch line with Annie and Clarabel, Thomas passed McConnell's Farm. They all looked for the scarecrow, but it had gone. "C-could he have gone for a w-walk?" shuddered Clarabel. "Humph," snorted Thomas.

3 Just then, Thomas saw Terence the tractor rolling into the field. "Ah, that explains it," he smiled. "The scarecrow has probably been taken down out of Terence's way, so that he can plough the field. Scarecrows waving and walking...? That would be scary!" chuckled Thomas. Annie and Clarabel relaxed. "You are clever, Thomas," they said.





4 Thomas passed through a tunnel. As he popped out into the sunshine, on the other side of the tunnel, his driver shut off steam and slowed down for the station. But Thomas suddenly gave out a fearful whistle. On the platform, leaning against a wall, and looking just like a waiting passenger, was the scarecrow! Thomas juddered to a halt!



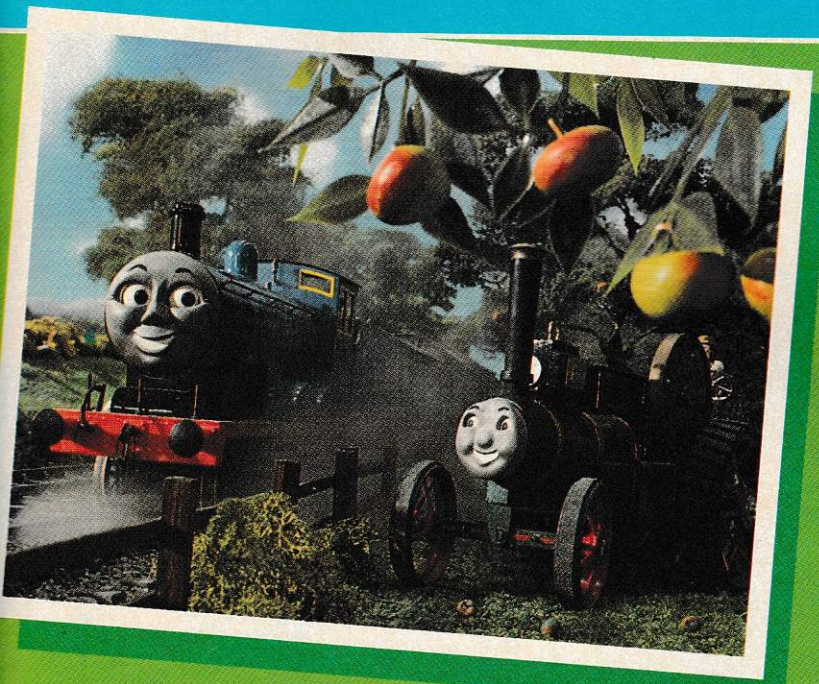
5 "Good luck at the Farming Show," said a station porter, walking on to the platform with Farmer McConnell.
"Thanks," replied the farmer, helping to carry the scarecrow to the train. "Many people want to see this scarecrow because it looks so lifelike. Even in a light breeze, the springs I put on the arms make them wave about. They're perfect for scaring birds away." Hearing that, Thomas now realised why Percy and Henry had said the scarecrow had waved. "I don't know about scaring crows, but it certainly scared me!" Thomas smiled.

The end

Edward, Trevor and the Really Useful Party

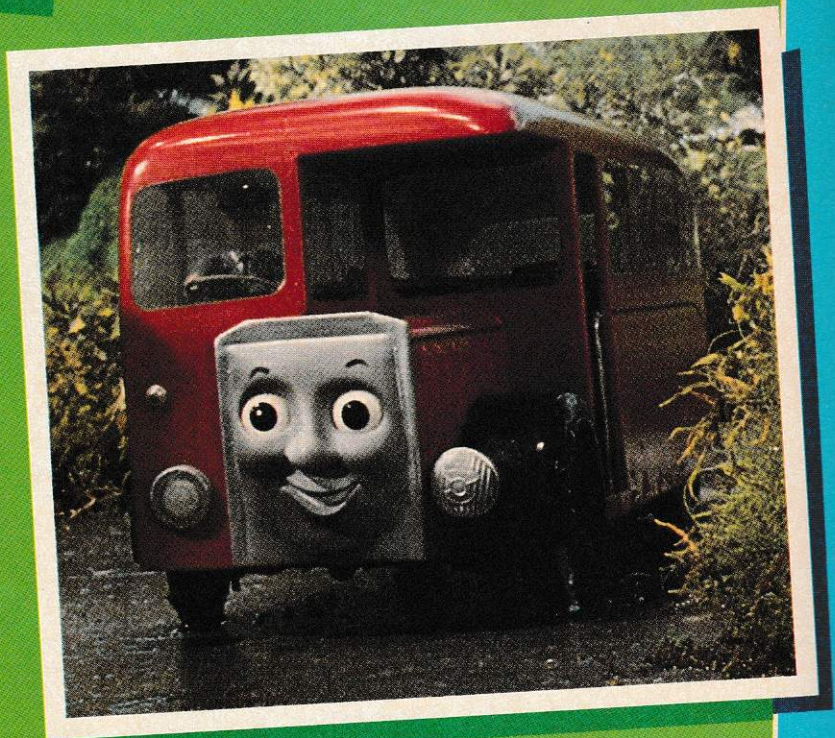
Based on *The Railway Series* by the Rev W Awdry.

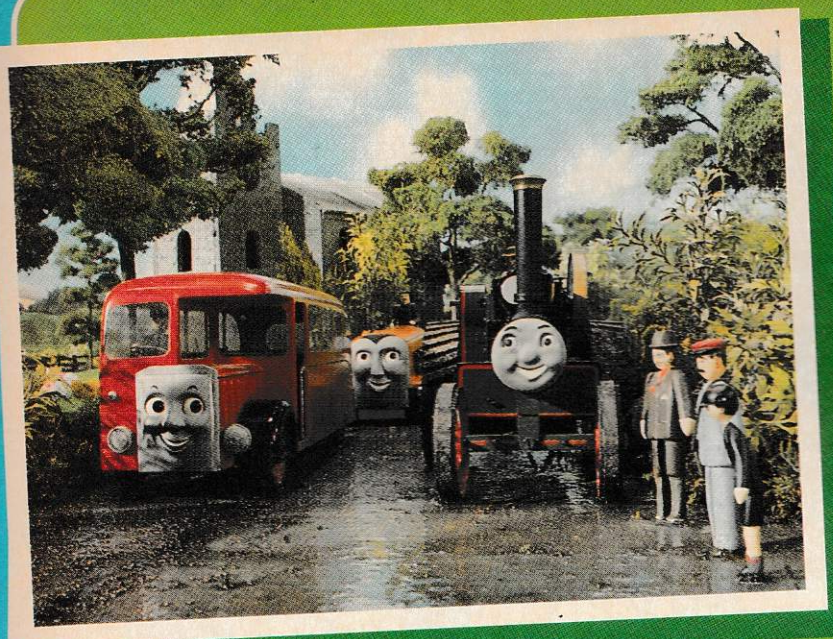
Trevor the Traction Engine is old-fashioned but he doesn't care. He knows that he is really useful - like his friend Edward the Blue Engine.



1 One day, Trevor told Edward about a party at the vicar's orchard to raise money for a children's seaside trip. "I'm going to give rides to all the visitors," he said, proudly. The vicar put up posters on Edward's cab so that his passengers would see them.

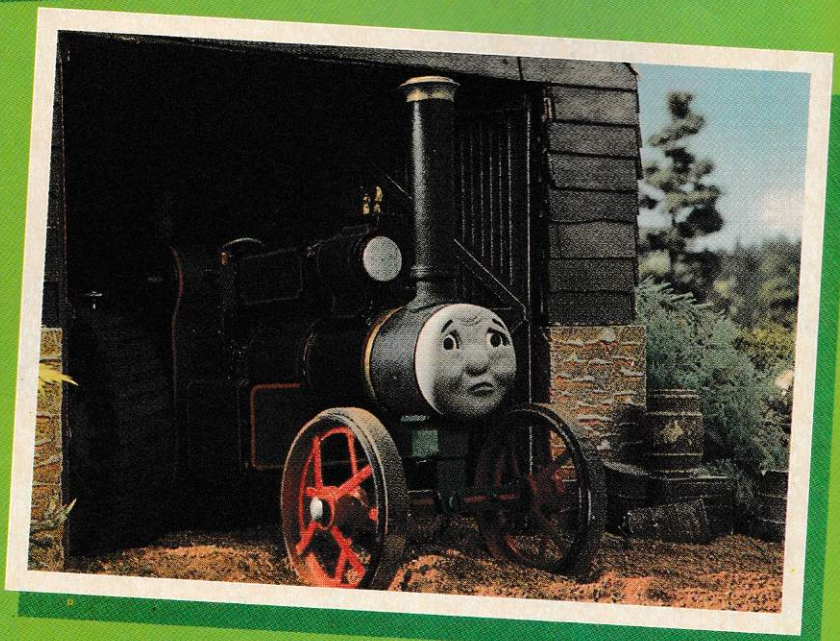
2 Later, Trevor was resting in the orchard when Bertie rolled by. "Hello, Trevor. Why are you dozing there like an old stick-in-the-mud?" Trevor explained that he was just resting for the party. Bertie said he'd be there too. "I'm not sure people will want to ride on an old traction engine after travelling in a smart, red bus."





3 The party day arrived. It had rained the night before and the ground was sodden. Bertie arrived with some children, but his wheels got stuck in the mud. Using strong ropes, Terence and Trevor pulled Bertie out of the mud. At last, Bertie was on the road again.

4 Bertie thanked Trevor and said, "You're not a stick-in-the-mud at all." "No," smiled Trevor. "But *you* were, just for a little while." Then Trevor fell asleep thinking of all the children who would now be able to go on the seaside trip.



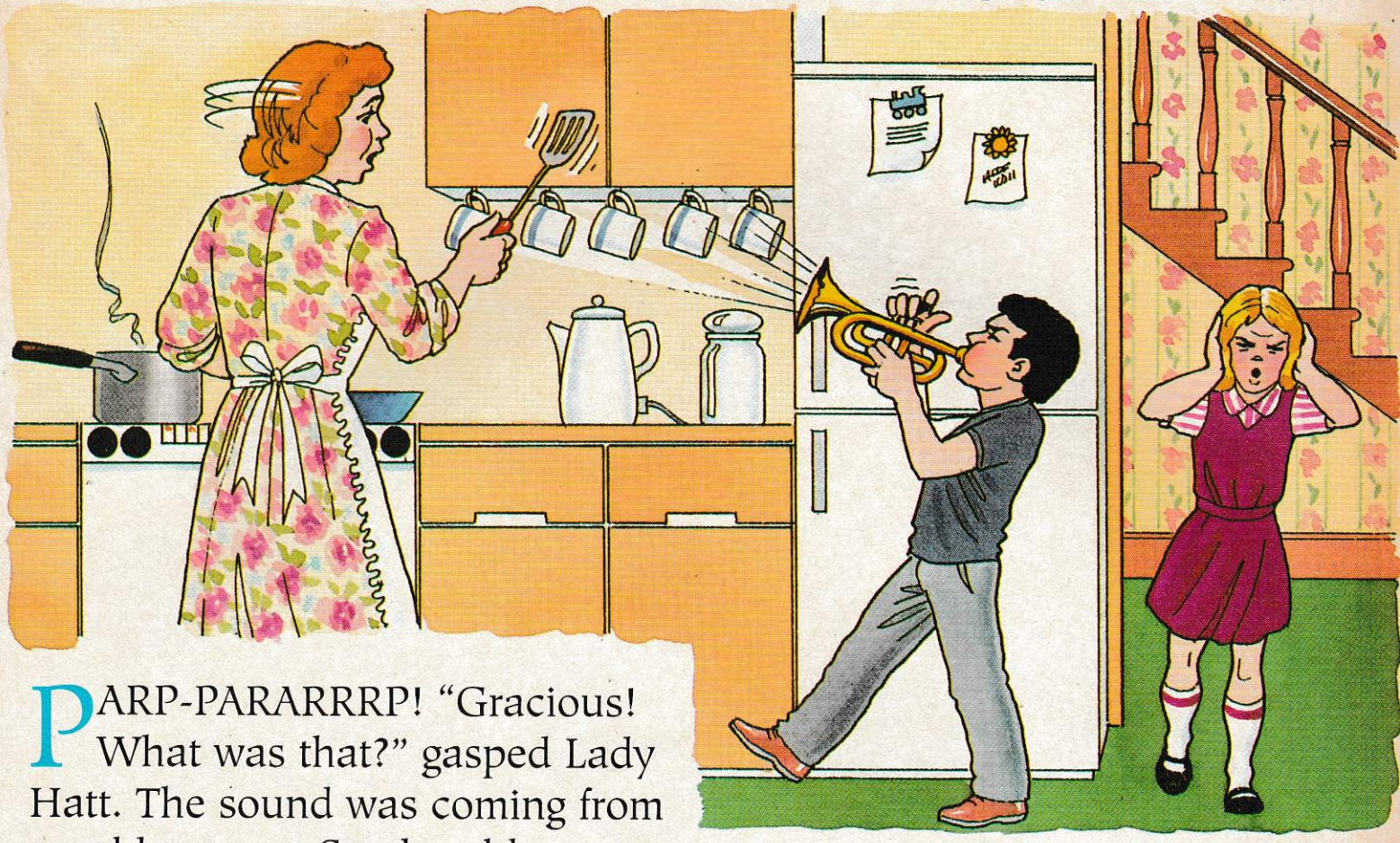
In Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends next time, you can read all about Henry's Forest!

Win a model of Trevor!

Five lucky winners can win a splendid model of Trevor from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/257 model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

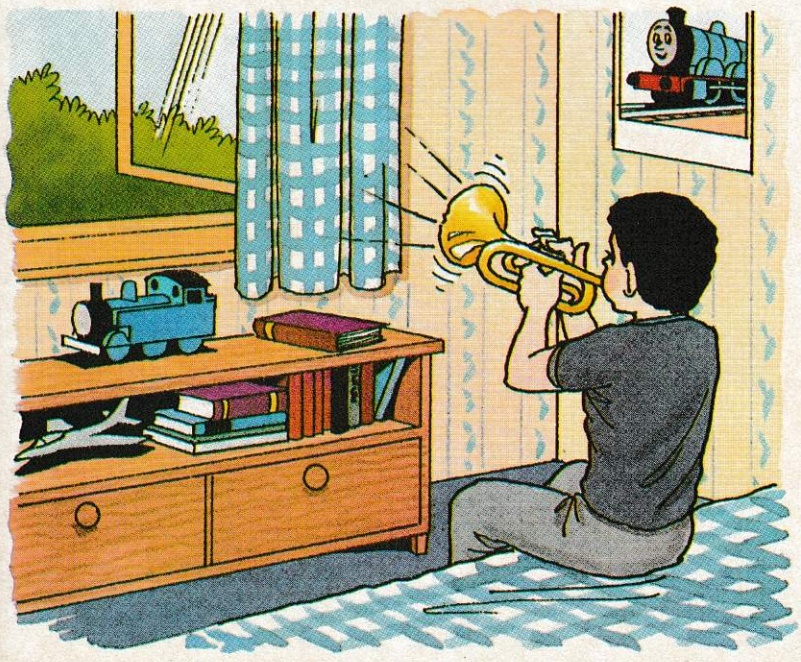
Closing date: August 28th 1997.

All clear!

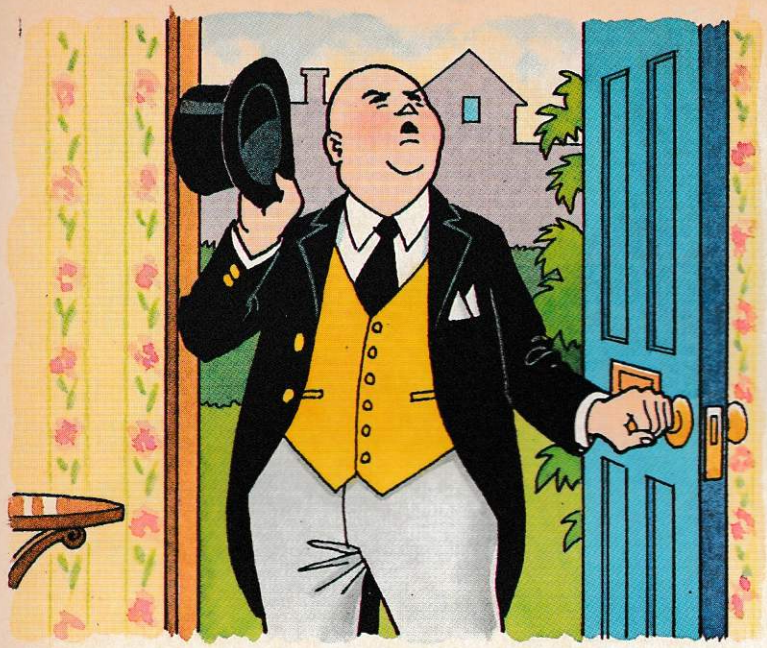


PARP-PARARRRP! "Gracious! What was that?" gasped Lady Hatt. The sound was coming from an old trumpet Stephen blew as he marched into the kitchen, one Saturday. His sister, Bridget, put her hands over her ears.

The children had just returned from the vicar's jumble sale at the church hall. "Look what I bought, grandma?" grinned Stephen. "This trumpet only cost a few pence. Isn't it great?" "Isn't it *noisy*!" sighed Bridget. "It certainly is," frowned Lady Hatt. "You made me jump!" "Sorry! Don't worry. I'll go upstairs and practise with it in my bedroom," replied Stephen.



Off he went. But the non-stop PARARPING echoed all over the house. Poor Bridget could hear it above the sound of the television. The tooting and trumpeting even carried outside into the garden, where Lady Hatt was picking some beans. Stephen was still blowing on the trumpet when the Fat Controller came home for his

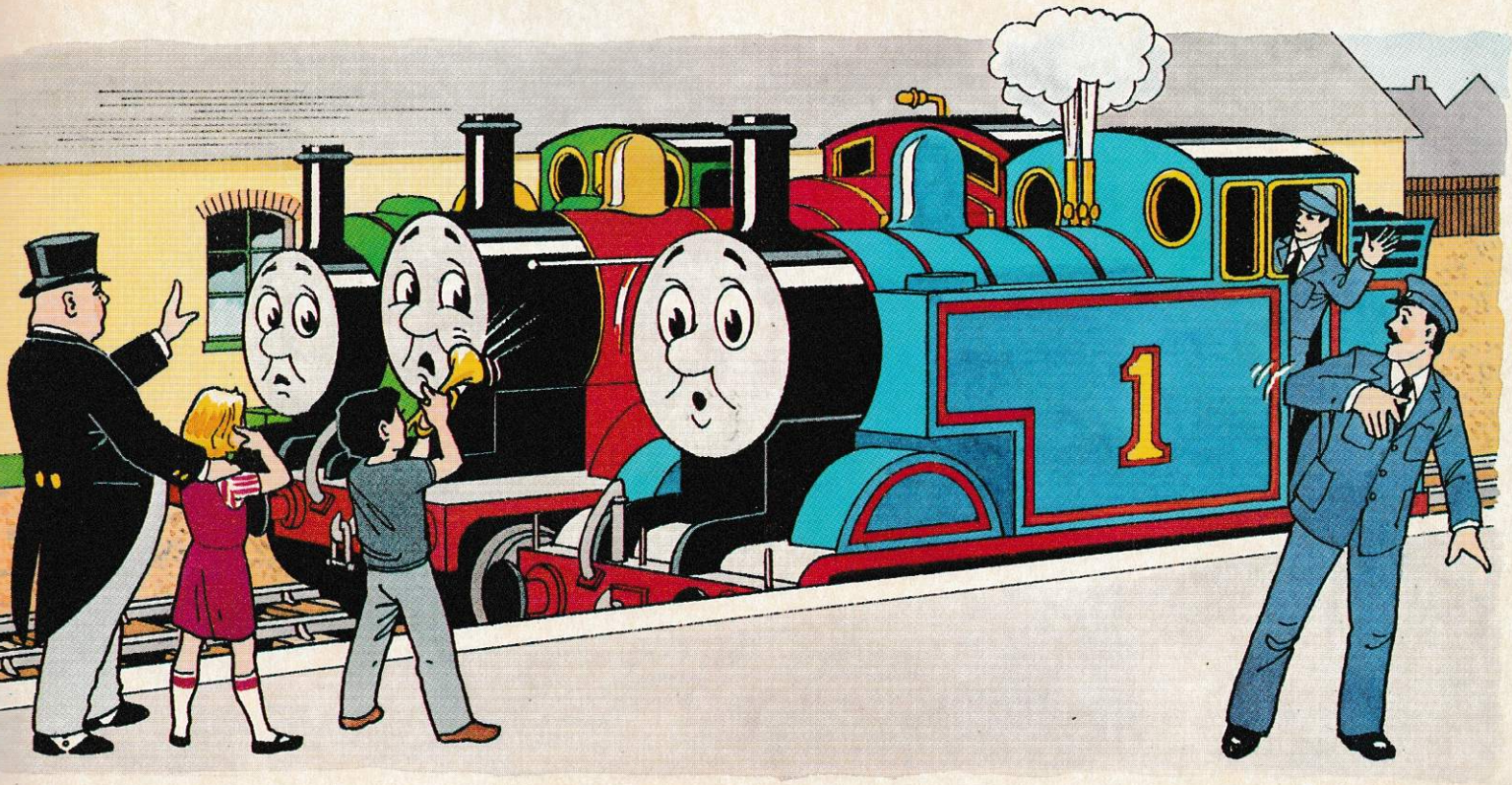


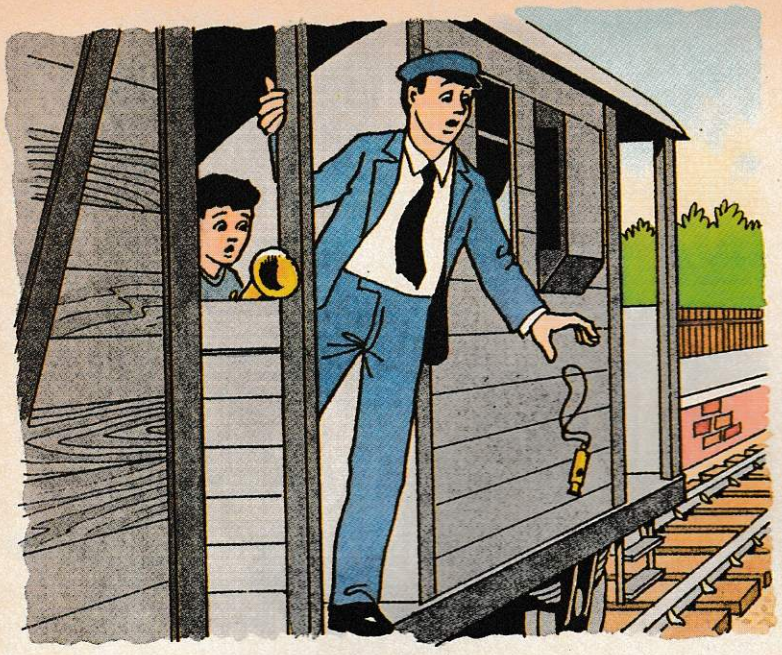
lunch. "Hello! Anyone in?" he called, taking off his hat in the hallway. But no one heard him. All the Fat Controller could hear was PARP! PARPETY-PARRRRP! "Upon my word! I can't hear myself think!" he cried, as he saw Bridget in the lounge. "What *is* going on?" "Stephen's playing his trumpet," she replied. "Or trying to!" "Well, it's got to stop," said the Fat Controller.

When Stephen was told, he was disappointed. "But I wanted to play it some more this afternoon," he said. "I've a better idea," said his grandpa. "Would you and Bridget like to come to the Main Station with me and see the engines?"

The children happily agreed. Of course, Stephen took his trumpet. "Peep! Peep!" Thomas whistled to his young friends, when he saw them. "PARP! PARRRRP!" replied Stephen, blowing hard on his trumpet. The noise startled Thomas and made the stationmaster jump.

Soon Thomas had to take a goods train on his branch line. The Fat Controller let Stephen travel in the guard's van as a treat. Bridget was happy to stay behind, well away from Stephen and his trumpet. "PHEEP!" The





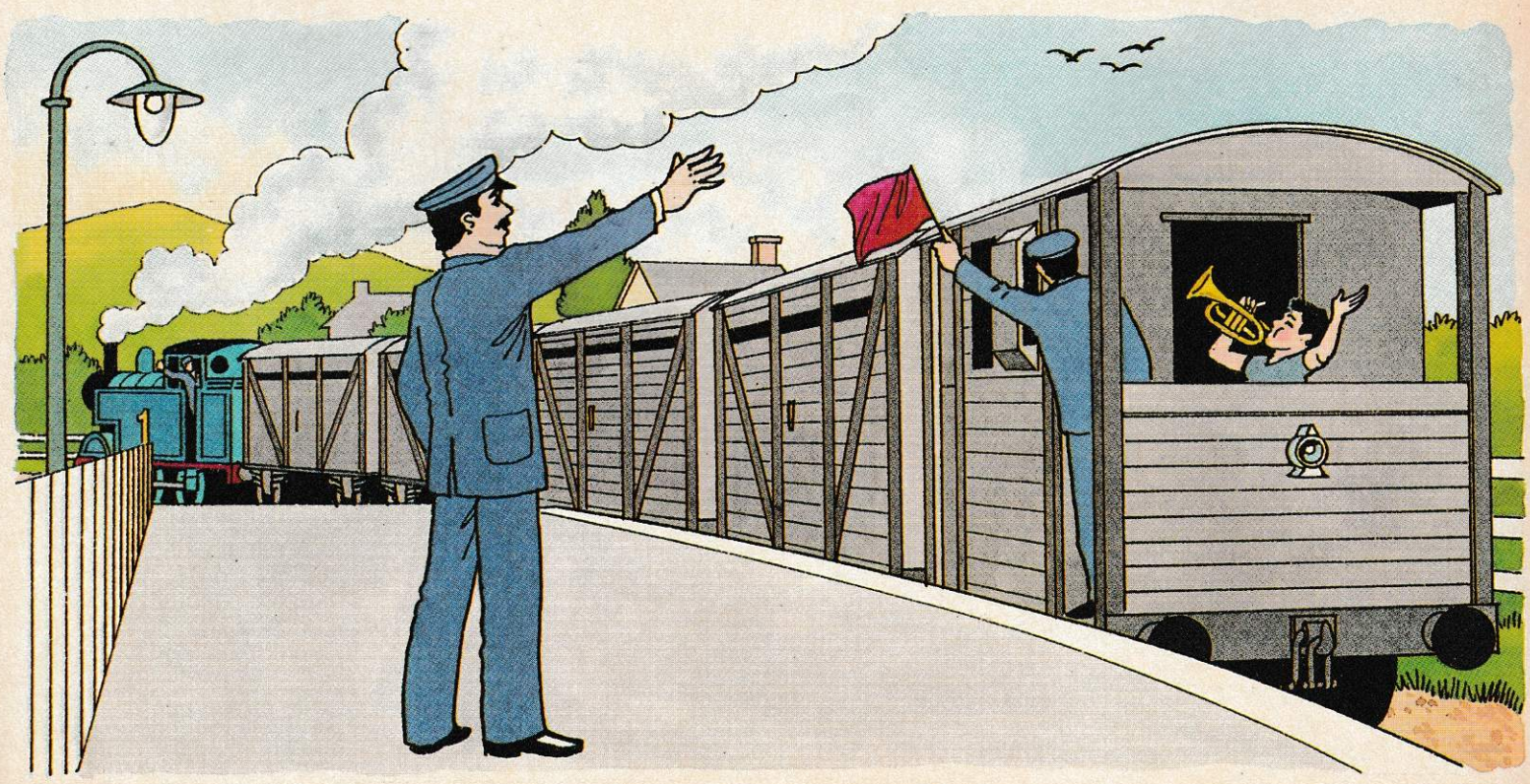
guard blew his whistle and Thomas set off to deliver goods to stations along the line.

Just as Thomas was leaving the first station, his guard dropped his whistle. It fell out of the train, onto the track. "Oops! I don't have a spare whistle with me," he gasped. "I've brought my trumpet!" said Stephen.

At the next station, everything was arranged with the driver. Everytime Thomas had to pull out of a station, Stephen blew his trumpet loudly, while the guard waved his flag, to signal the driver it was all clear for Thomas to go.

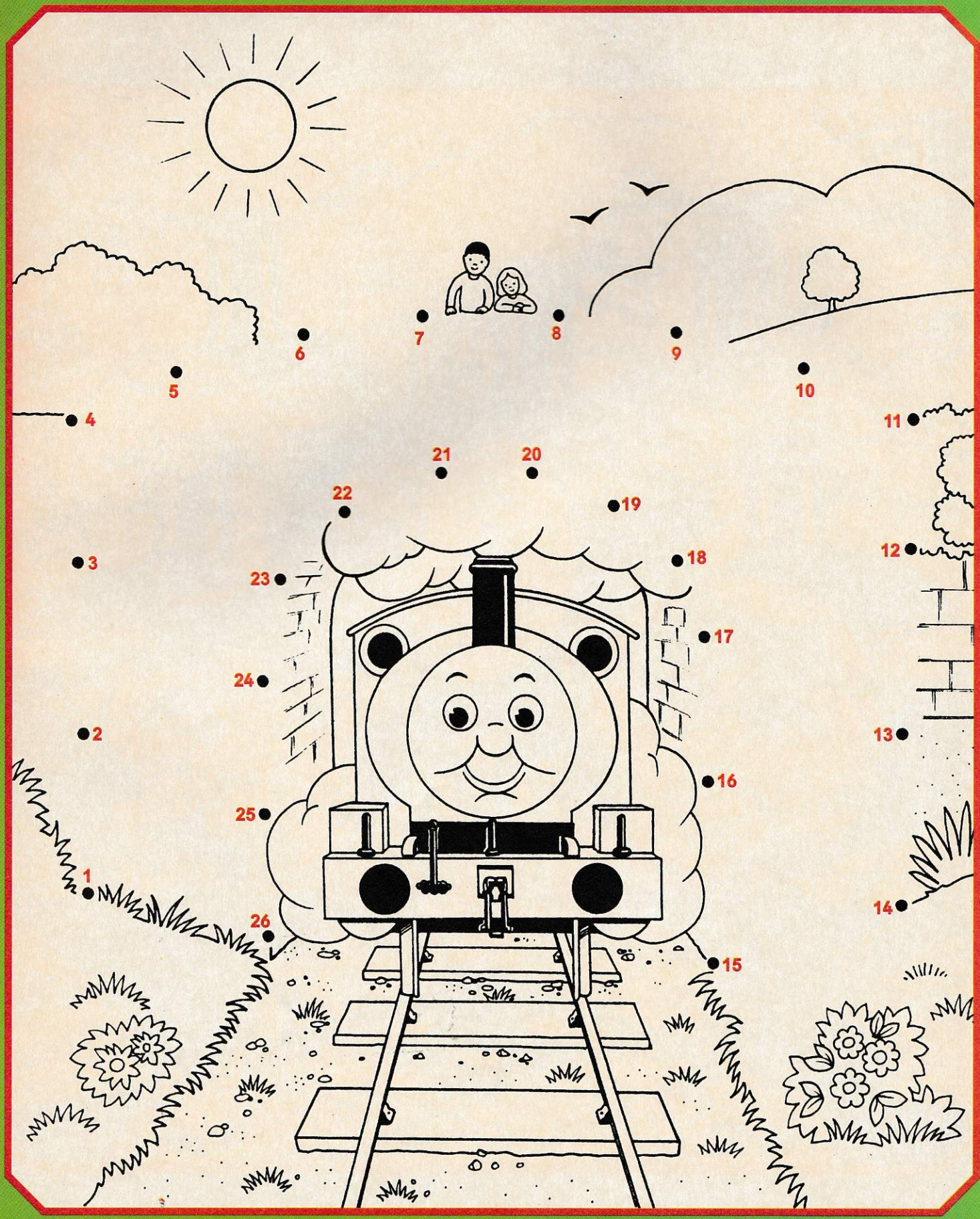
Stephen had a wonderful time. He felt very important! He could hardly wait to tell his sister and grandpa, later at the Main Station. "At least Thomas was glad I played my trumpet!" said Stephen. "Please don't any more," teased the guard. "That trumpet's so loud!" "Don't worry. I need a rest now," grinned Stephen. "I'm not a steam engine, like Thomas. "I've run out of puff!"

The end



Dot to dot!

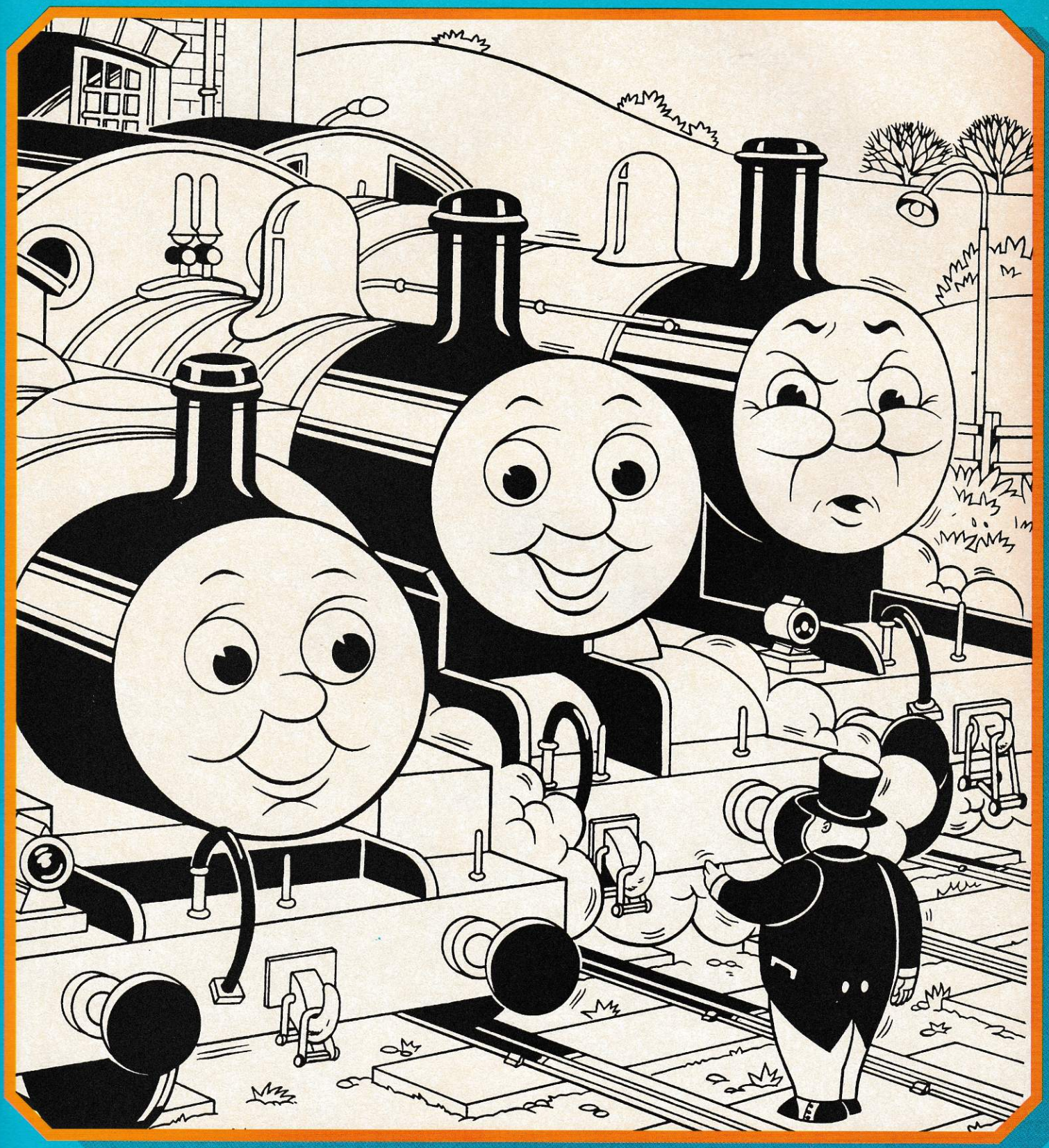
The children have a perfect view. What is Percy zooming through?



When you have finished colour this page!

Spot the c

These two pages look the same, but there are
spot the 5 changes? When you have



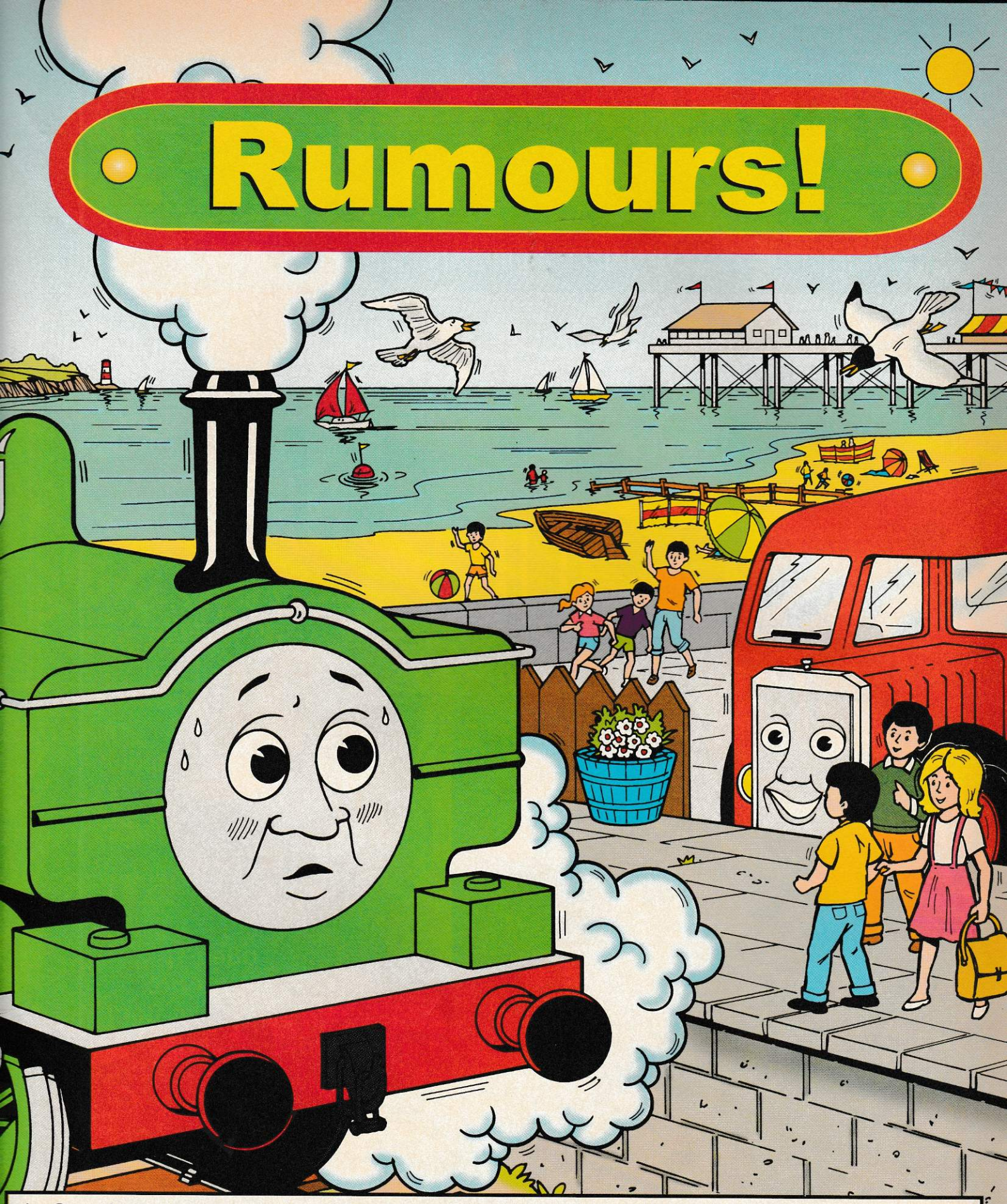
es' coupling hook - Percy's buffer - Lamp post

lifference!

some tiny differences between them! Can you found them all, colour in the pictures!

Answers: Thomas' whistle - James' dome - Jan

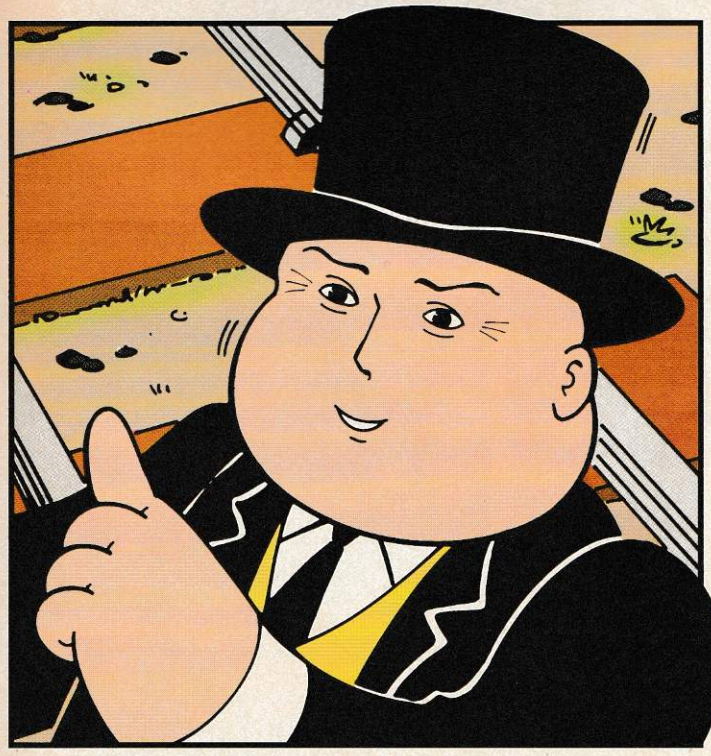
Rumours!



1. One hot summer's day, Duck and Bertie the bus met at a sea-side station. "Toot, toot! Morning, Duck! You should go to sleep earlier, you look exhausted! called Bertie.

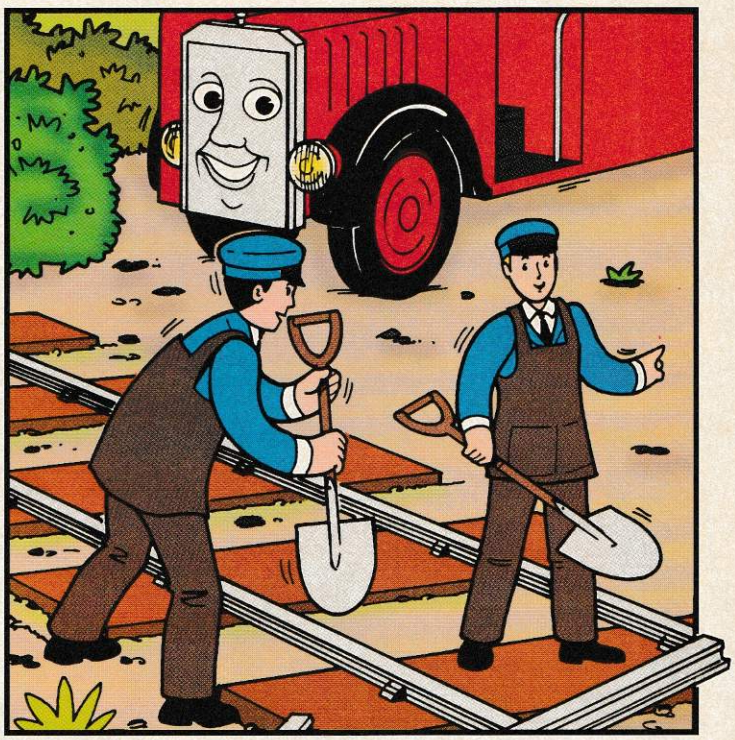
2. Poor Duck was puffed out. "I'm having such a busy summer I think I need a break!" he groaned. "I wish I was busy, you seem to get all the action these days!" replied the bus.

3. "Your wish just might come true, Bertie!" whistled Duck. "I heard a rumour from the carriages that my tracks are to be re-laid, and you'll have to do my work until it's done!"

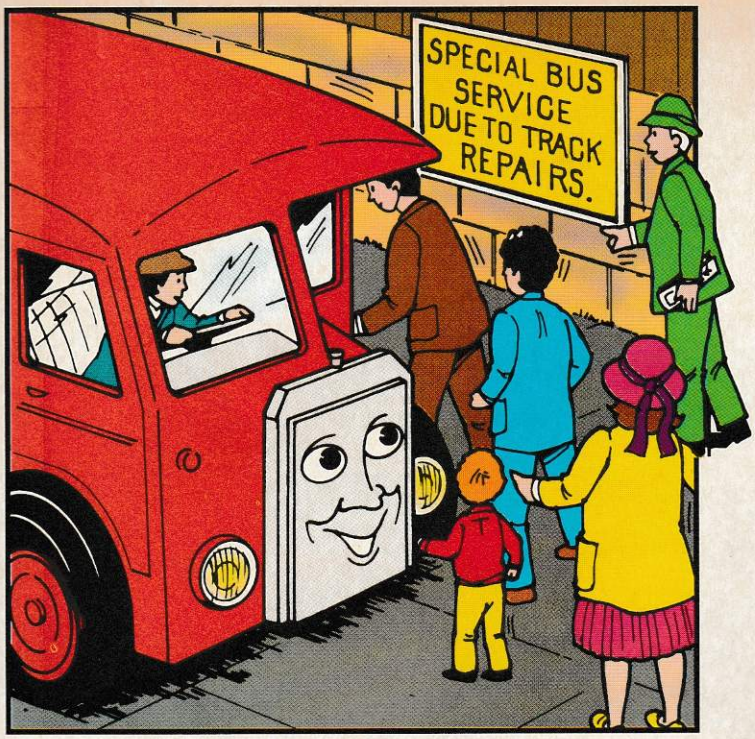


5. The next day the Fat Controller gave the orders! "Duck's branch line is now closed for track relaying. Duck is going for an overhaul and Bertie will do Duck's work!" he said.

4. Bertie laughed. "Rumours, rumours! Don't listen to those gossipy carriages of yours. Your tracks look fine to me." Duck smiled, "We'll just have to wait and see!"

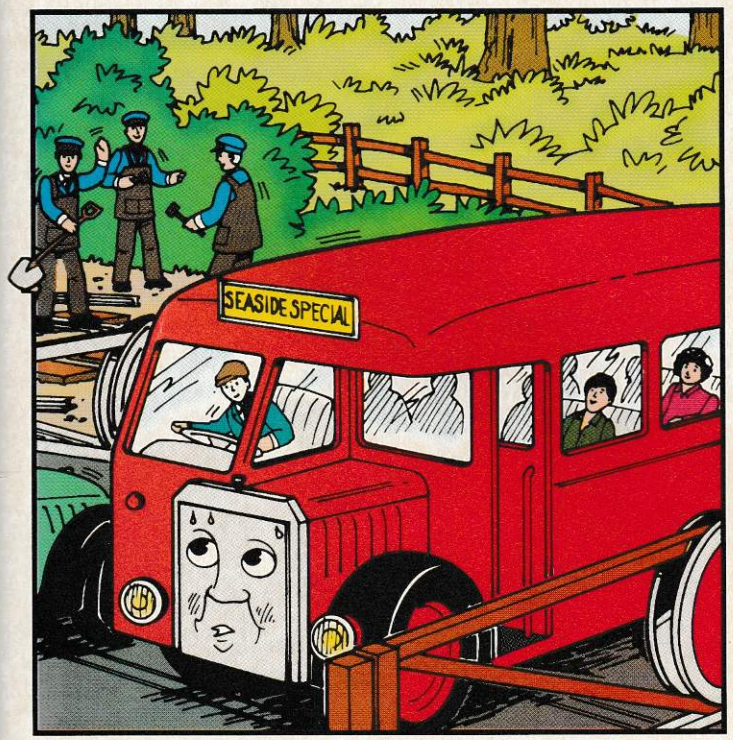


6. Bertie was excited about his extra work! His first job was to take the track workers to the site. "Come on, men, put your backs into it!" he hooted with a big grin, as he left.

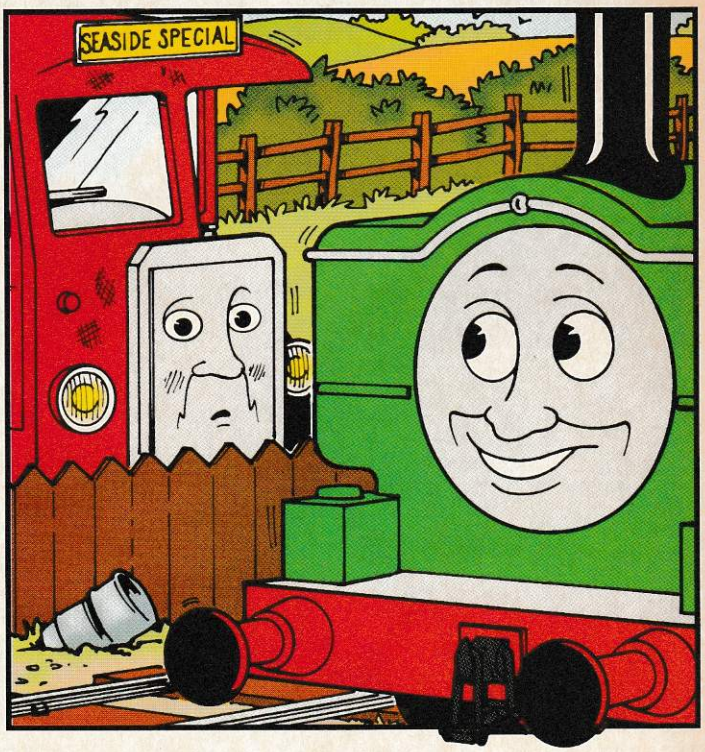


7. Then Bertie had to run the sea-side service. A notice was put up at all Duck's stations to explain. Bertie was very pleased. "Hooray, more action for me!" he tooted.

8. At first, Bertie enjoyed doing Duck's work. "Toot, Toooot! All aboard the Sea-side Special. This way for the sea-side!" he hooted, loudly. Bertie felt very important.



9. It was so busy in the afternoons, after a few days Bertie grew tired. "Now I know why Duck gets worn out, and with all this track work no other engines can be used!"



10. Luckily for Bertie, the track work was soon finished and he went to drop off the workers for the last time. At the same time, Duck came out of the workshop in tip-top shape.

11. Duck was feeling good after his rest and repairs. "How's life on my branch line, Bertie?" he called. "It was a lot of fun, and the clean sea air has done me good!" replied Bertie, bravely. "Well, I've been hearing more rumours!" whistled Duck. "Some holiday makers said something about a noisy, old, red bus that needs an overhaul!" Bertie smiled, "That's not just a rumour!" he said, "I need a rest!"

12. Just then, the Fat Controller arrived. "Good evening, men, and a big 'thank you' for all your hard work!" he said to the track workers. "And as for you, Bertie, what would we do without you!" he smiled. "But you look exhausted," added the Fat Controller. "And I hear rumours that it's your turn for an overhaul!" Bertie gave a tired grin. "Yes, Sir!" he hooted, and made straight for the workshop!

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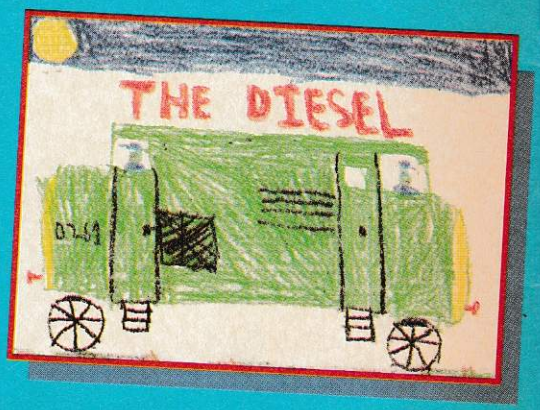


Here is 'The Diesel' going to pick up the mail train, by 7 year old Jonathan Kenward.

Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
Do you have any spare top hats?

From Jack McCarthy, aged 22 mths.

Why, yes Jack! I always keep a spare top hat in case the one I'm wearing gets blown away by a gust of wind! Actually, I often get a new one for Christmas!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a splendid Thomas carry case!

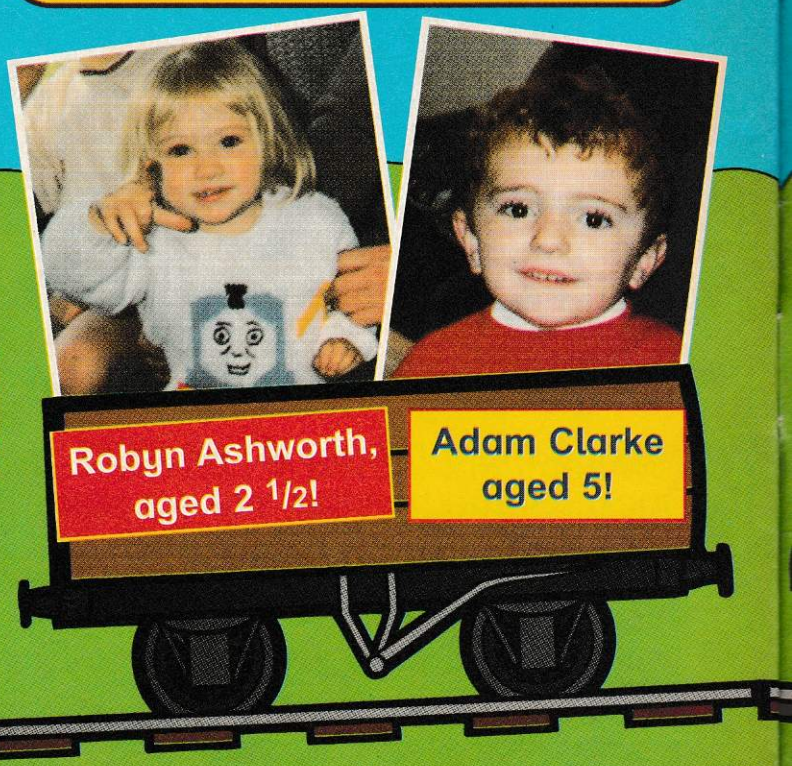
Prize Poem!

Sam Hinton thought up this brilliant poem about Henry!

I like Henry,
He's green and really quick.
When he pulls his passengers,
His service is quite slick!

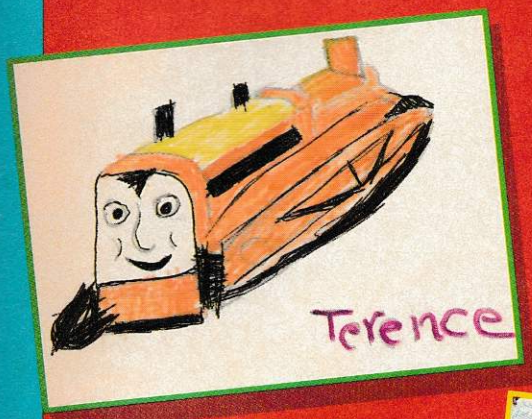
Happy Birthday

TO: Emily Davison, aged 3,
Stewart McNaughton, aged 7,
Thomas Simpson, aged 4,
Adam Chawner, aged 3,
Reece Spearing, aged 3,
Emma-Mary Isaac, aged 4 &
Ria Gibbison, aged 4!



nail train!

Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a set of special Thomas Glitter Stickers.



Kind-hearted Terence the Tractor is ready to help in this drawing by Ciaran Forrest, aged 5!

What a fabulous picture of Gordon and the Fat Controller drawn by Ramai Ramsonius!

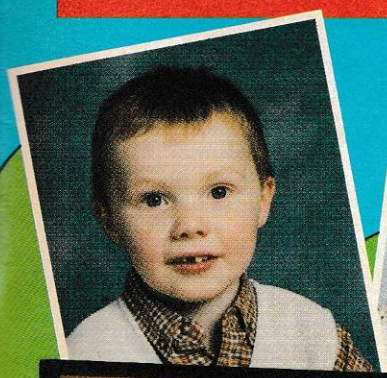
Percy's Jokes!

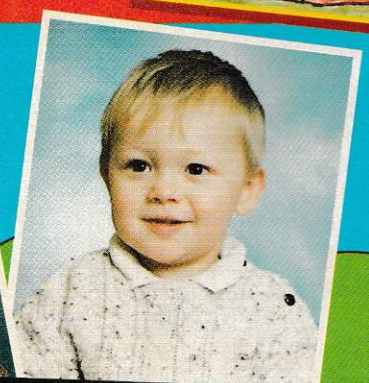
Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy?

What do you call a monster with no ears?
Anything you like, because he won't be able to hear you!
Edward Box, aged 7!

What's yellow & white and gets eaten at 100 mph?
A train driver's egg sandwich!
Annie Whittingham, aged 5!

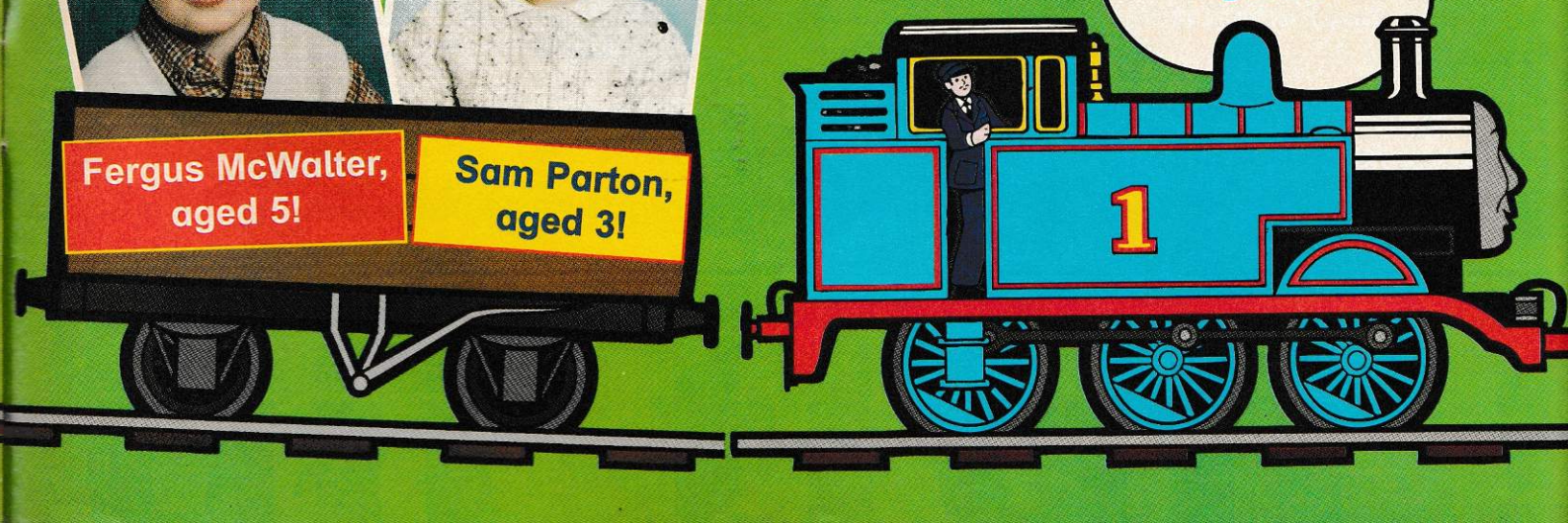
How do you start a flea race?
One, two, flea, go!
Mark Lloyd, aged 6!





Fergus McWalter, aged 5!

Sam Parton, aged 3!



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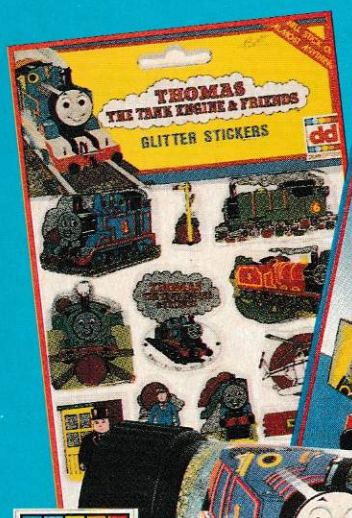

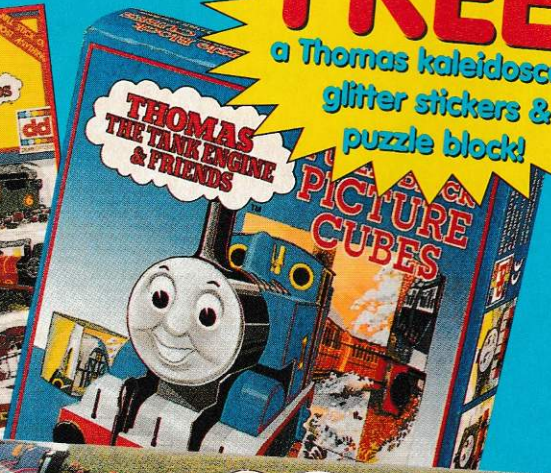

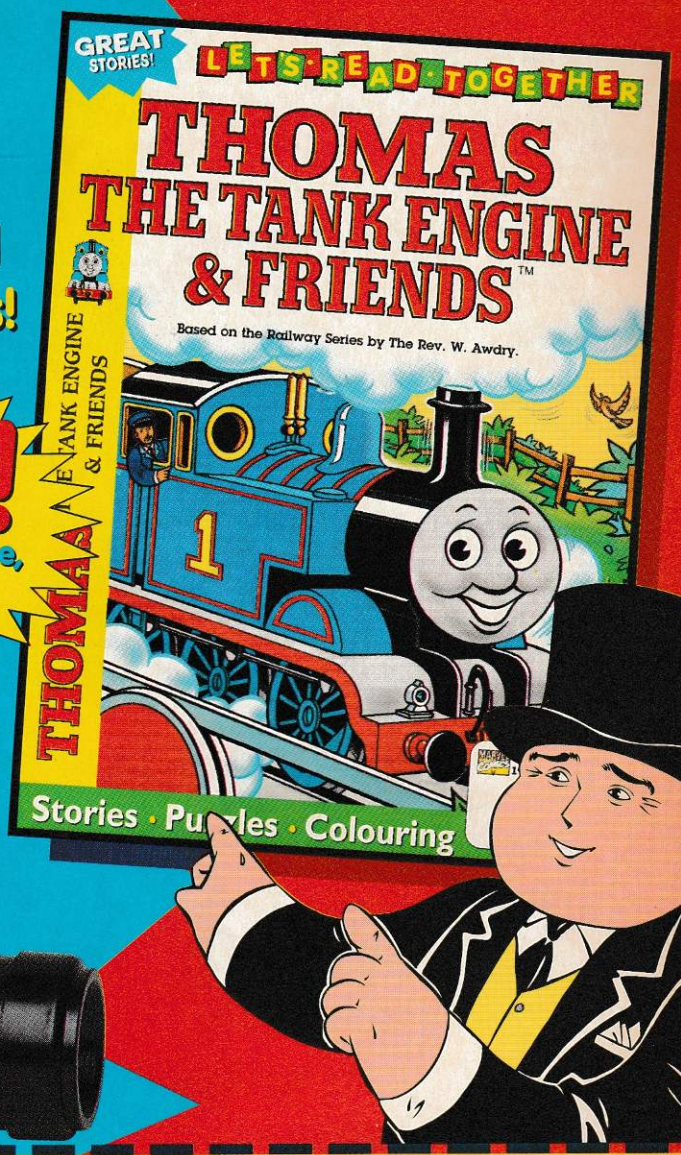

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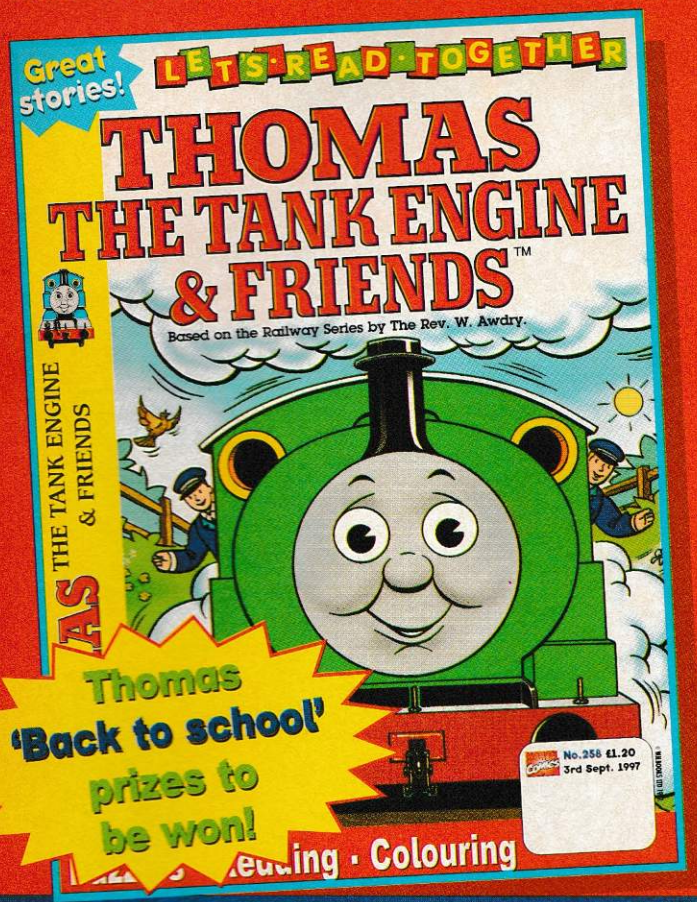

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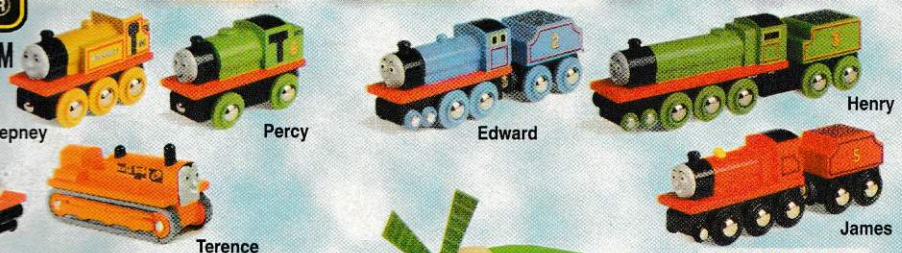

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